worth crores of rupees to the country. India's biological wealth is being taken out of the country to earn money for companies in European and American countries. Whether it is the seed of special varieties of rice and wheat which are going to American seed companies or the orchids of the North-East out of which European floriculture companies are earning millions. Valuable medicinal plants found in our country are being smuggled out and patented by foreing companies. New Indian companies cannot produce medicines out of many Indian plants based on our knowledge of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha because some American or European companies have already taken a patent on Haldi, Tulsi, Amla or Neem etc. The North-East region which is rich in biodiversity has become a target of biopiracy. Last year, a Japanese was caught, trying to smuggle out several rare species of butterflies at Delhi Airport; but he had to be set free as there is no legislation in our country to check such biopiracy.

Other countries have already formulated national legislations establishing their ownership over their biological resources. It is high time, the Government of India also rise to the occasion by formulating adequate legislation in this regard.

(vii) Need to ensure that Bisra Dolomite Stone and Lime Stone Mines at Birmitrapur, Orrisa are not closed

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : I draw the attention of the House to the future of thousands of workers and their family members, 95 per cent of them belonging to the tribals who are going to be without work in the event of the closure of the Sisra Dolomite Stone and Lime Stone Mines at Birmitrapur and Dolomite stone mines at Purnapani.

Sir, BSL at Birmitrapur is the oldest mine in the country and once there were seven thousand workers. Now there are some 3000 workers out of which 95 per cent are tribals. The mines supply Dolomite stone to Rourkela Steel Plant and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. But due to managerial defects the mine is going to be closed. I would request the Government that this should be taken over by the Steel Authority of India.

Sir, so also Purnapani Mine under RMD supplies Dolomite stone to the Rourkela Steel Plant. The RMD have served notice to the workers that they are going to close the mines throwing another 3000 tribal workers out of work.

Sir, in Birmitrapur Assembly segment which stands on the border of Orissa and Bihar, the closure of these mines will create a lot of law and order problems. I request the Union Government to take immediate steps so that these mines are not closed.

(viii) Need for Expeditious Implementation of the Recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : After a long wait of more than three years the Fifth Pay Commission has at last submitted its report.

The Government of India has implemented the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, 11 years ago. Since then the steep rise in the inflation and sky-rocketing prices of essential commodities have made the life of Central Government employees miserable. The purchasing capacity of these employees has been affected adversely, particularly of those belonging to Class III and IV. This situation has created a gloomy future for these employees. The Income-tax is slowly but steadily engulfing the Class II employees also. The Income-tax ceiling had not been raised last year despite repeated demands by almost all parties and public in general. There are a number of criticisms about the recommendations. A grievances Cell can be set-up by the Government for this purpose. Many employees' associations have already threatened to go on an Indefinite strike if the recommendations are not implemented at the earliest.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to implement the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission without any further delay.

(ix) Need to set up the Proposed Bottling Plant of ONGC near Jharsuguda, Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Considering all factors it was proposed to set up a bottling plant by the Indian Oil Corporation in the undivided Sambalpur district near Jharsuguda in Orissa in order to meet the increasing demand of LPG cylinders in the country in particular. But it is a matter of concern that the proposal has not materialised so far. It is learnt that there is a move to shelve the proposal to locate the same somewhere else in the State about 250 kms. away. This is causing discontentment among the people in the area.

I request the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to intervene so as to ensure the setting up of the proposed Bottling Plant near Jharsuguda, Orissa.

14.25 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item No. 18–Further consideration of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. I oppose it because this Government can not follow the tradition established by the President. Only a few days back the President invited the largest political party, the BJP to form the Government. This Government has not been able to follow the tradition which the President has established. I want to draw the attention of this

Government towards the incidents which happened in the past. In the past. In October, 1967 in Rajasthan a similar United Front was formed consisting of Jansangh, Swatantra Party, SSP, Communist Party and Independents to stake claim to form the Govt. There No. has gone upto 92 at that time and they elected Maharawal Lakshman Singh as their leader and he claimed that he was having majority in the House and so be invited to form the Government. And the decision taken by the Governor at that time, I would like to quote it from the book of Dr. Subhash Kashyap. In the book he has written that the Governor decided that since the Congress was single largest party with 88 members the Governor referred the case of Madras where in 1952 Congress did not get the complete majority but, it was the single largest party. Even though the leader of the opposition parties Shri T. Prakashan had brought all the Opposition parties under one umbrella and they enjoyed the majority but, the Governor invited Rajaji as the leader of the single largest party, to form the Government. This tradition was maintained in Madras on or before 1959. That is the Governor were having this attitude that the single largest political party should be invited to form the Government. And that is not being followed in U.P. Though it was there for so many years. Has the Constitution changed or the established norms have changed ? This way Government is not following the norms which the President has set and is working against them. Thus, the Motion of Thanks has no meaning because of these reasons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that just now my friends were discussing about this point till a few days back it appeared that the Congress was going to withdraw its support from this Government and there was uncertainty on the fate of this Government and it appeared that the Government is going to fall any time but in between, the elections were held and the results thereof in the State of Punjab and by elections in the States of M.P. and Rajasthan particularly in the Nagaur Constituency which was a Congress stronghold and was won by the Congress continuously for the last 50 years without break, both these seats were won by the BJP. In the same way results came from the State of Punjab elections it must be assumed and BJP must be thanked for the continuity and stability of the United Front Government. They must celebrate it. In a way it can be assumed now that this Government is still there not because of Congress support but, because of fear of BJP. It has also been proved by the Municipal Corporation elections held in Mumbai and Delhi. So, the life span of this Government has increased by a few days. Therefore, I say that this Government should work better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this Government towards the existence of Directive Principles in our Constitution and the Article 44 given there. About that our Supreme Court gave a decision in May, 1995. Before that also the Court has been urging the Government to formulate a Common Civil Code. But, the different Governments that came into power did nothing for it. That is why the Supreme Court has to say with regret that whichever Government come into power no one made any effort to formulate Common Civil Code and during the period of Narasimha Rao Government the Supreme Court directed the Narasimha Rao Government to inform it about the steps taken by it in an affidavit to the Courts by August, 1996. But, even for this Government has not done anything. I want to draw the attention of this Government towards this that because the BJP has been asking for the implementation of the Common Civil Code that is why it is branded as communal very easily. In the same way whenever we ask for the ban on Cow stalughter, then we are branded as non-secular. I want to bring this to the notice of such people, that the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court to have common Civil Code, after that the leaders of this country, or the people opposed to BJP, they must learn a lesson from this that this is not desired by the BJP alone but also by the Supreme Court of the country and it is in the interest of the country. Supreme Court has stated that now it is not a question of religion only. Common Civil Code will not even remotely affect the religion and the countries like Syria, Tanzania, Moracco have adopted the Common Civil Code and stopped the practice of polygamy. Eighteen Muslim countries from Tazakhistan to Pakistan have made amendments in the Shariat Law. If these changes can be made in Muslim countries then why these can't be done in India. Indian Government should make changes *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : This is wrong .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will also get a chance.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I am not yielding.

[English]

Sir, I am not yielding.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, there is one thing. I request the hon. Member to yield. The hon. Member has said that so many Muslim countries have made

[Translation]

amendments in the Shariat. This is all wrong. Hundred muslim countries have made changes in the Shariat. You take this statement back.

[English]

Shariat is a divine law. No man on this earth is empowered to make any amendment in the Shariat. No Muslim, nobody will do it.....*(Interruptions)* I will tell you. It is there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Please answer my one question.....*(Interruptions)* The Shariat was not in force in India prior to 1933. Was Shariat applicable in India during Mughal period .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : You have not understood Shariat .....*(Interruptions)* If you are not perfect in that, do not speak on that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : You are in the habit of beating about the bush.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : The Court is not above to Muslim Shariat. It cannot interfere in the religious matter .....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I am straight way referring the Supreme Court and it is stated in the judgement. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, if I make any amendment in the Shariat will lose my religion. I stand on that.....*(Interruptions)* The Supreme Court cannot interfere in the Shariat. Shariat is a religious law. No one is above that. No one can interfere in the religion. I stand for that in this House.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. You please sit down.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your point has been included in the records.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am speaking to you also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Azmi, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : You may speak when your term comes.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUAL ISLAM : I want to ask you. Will the Supreme Court direct holy books like Quran, Gita or Bible. The Supreme Court cannot interfere in anybody's religion be it Hindu, Muslim or Christian.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not repeat it.

[Translation]

You can go to the next point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : There is a State of Goa in our country.....*(Interruptions)* It was ruled by Portugese. It became free when Goa was governed by Portugese. Goa got free down after 15 years of India's independence.....*(Interruptions)* Common Civil Code is still applicable in Goa. So, it must be imposed here.....*(Interruptions)* I am referring to a Supreme Court judgement in which it has been stated that it will strengthen the unity and integrity of India.....*(Interruptions)*. It will not at all harm the religious feelings. It does not violate the human rights and dignity but, prohibits the atrocities being committed on women. Thus, it is necessary to bring Common Civil Code. Polygamy is prohibited in countries like America and China. Even Muslims do not follow Polygamy there. They are not permitted to do so. Thus, for India to allow such things or discuss such an issue.....*(Interruptions)* I do not want to refer what has been stated by the Supreme Court .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, it is a fundamental right. Article 25 is for that. Every citizen of this country can select the religion of his choice and can profess or follow it. We have got that constitutional right as a citizen of this country.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I would like to raise another issue. The prevailing law and order situation, in the country is because of religions only. Our religious holy books, Quran, Saints and Shankaracharyas preach against evil deeds as it is like committing sin and people do not indulge in such deeds due to fear of sin. That is why, this law and order is prevalent here and it is not due to the Government of India, or the police. Today, the police is hand in glove with thieves, decoits, smugglers and miscreants. In this circumstance, law and order situation cannot be maintained in such a vast country. It is only due to religion which is followed by all the communities of the country, that law and order prevails. We cannot deny the fact that religion has its own utility in the country.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki) : Now, it is correct.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : If it is correct, you should, at least accept it.

I would also like to raise one more issue which is regarding increasing external debt burden on the country. There is also an increase in the amount of unutilised loan. In1992, the unutilised loan was to the tune of Rs. 61,000 crore which increased to Rs. 65,000 crore in 1993 and Rs. 83,000 crore in 1994. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund stopped the loan of 9.40 billion dollar to India on the ground that a huge amount of earlier loan was lying unutilised with India. The hon. Finance Minister had gone to Washington in last September and discussed the issue with the President of the IMF.

In 1964 the issue of unutilised loan had been taken seriously and a high power committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri V.K. R.V. Rao. But so far, the Government has not implemented the recommendations made by that committee. We are required to pay interest on the unutilised loan. Many projects are left incomplete due to paucity of funds.

Under Article 292 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament has been empowered to impose a ceiling on external borrowing. Therefore, the ceiling of external debt should be decided. We all know very well about the increasing burden of external debt on the country. A lot of discussion have taken place on this issue. As on date, India

owes an external debt to the tune of Rs. 3,60,000 crore. It has been indicated in the current budget that Rs. 60,000 crore will have to be paid as interest on this loan alone and next year, it will be Rs. 80,000 crore. Therefore, some ceiling should be imposed on external borrowing. In 1962-93, 1963-64 and 1965-66, the Public Accounts Committee had also given a suggestion that the Government and Parliament should consider this issue and impose a ceiling on borrowings. In 1992-93, the Estimates Committee had also given a suggestion for imposing statutory ceiling so as to restrict the Government from going for the borrowings. This celling has already been imposed in England, USA, Canada and Sri Lanka. This ceiling of loan should be decided in proportion to the percentage of gross domestic product. The gravity of the issue can be gauged by the fact that during last ten years, more than hundred questions have been asked by the MPs on this subject. Therefore, some measures should be found out to save the country from the throes of this debt problem.

In the Constitution of India, there is a provision for compulsory education and as per this provision, free education should have been given to all within a period of ten years from the date of adoption of the Constitution. Ten years had passed long back. Whether free education is being imparted in India ? Whether no fee is being charged from the children upto the age of 14 years ? Whether the provision of compulsory education has been implemented. This should be debated and implemented by the Government.

Many of our hon. Members become agitated on the issue of communalism and secularism. Communalism and secularism have not yet been defined and included in the Constitution of India. I would like to make a demand and put forth this view for the consideration of the House that why we do not define communalism and secularism elaborately and include them in the Constitution. But it is not being considered seriously.

Now I would like to draw your attention toward the misuse of Article 356 by the Central Government in dismissing State Governments. The former Chief Justice Shri Venkatchellaiah made a demand in a symposium that Article 356 should be abrogated from the Constitution of India. Now Shri Bommai is the Minister of Human Resource Development. His Government was dismissed when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Thereafter, Supreme Court had given a judgement that the Bommai Government was dismissed unconstitutionally. The Government has not made any effort to stop misuse of this provision repeatedly.

I would like to read out two lines from the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government.

[English]

"Controls on the movement of agricultural products and on the processing of agricultural products will be abolished. Measures will be taken to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce."

[Translation]

What is happening today ? Is the Government fulfilling its promises ? Farmers of India are very much concerned over the issue of wheat. Transportation of wheat from one province to another has been banned and a stock limit has been fixed. The crop of wheat has arrived in the houses of farmers and their prices have been going down. Despite their promise of not resorting to control and ceiling, control has been imposed. Whether the farmers are getting remunerative price for wheat ?

Farmers are also not getting remunerative price for cotton. In 1994-95, the rate of cotton was Rs. 2500 per quintal which declined to Rs. 1800 per quintal in 1995-96. This year cotton is being sold at a rate of Rs. 1400 per quintal. Except the two major centres of district level the CCI has stopped the procurement of cotton. As per my information, the Government of India has issued instructions for exports of 12 lakh bales of cotton as on date, and quota has been released for it. But from October to March, only 2 lakh bales of cotton could be exported. The Government should pay attention towards it and find out as to why the remaining bales of cotton are not being exported. The rates of cotton will increase only if the export is done. The Government should purchase bales of cotton from the traders so that the rate of cotton could increase.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, please conclude.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Price rise has aggravated the problems of people. The rates of sugar has been increased by one and a half rupees in fair price shops. Simultaneously, prices of consumer goods have been increased in open market. The Government should take appropriate measures to check price rise. The Government continued to export wheat during last year but at the last moment a statement was made that export of wheat had been stopped in June 1996. Later on, when a question was asked as to whether wheat flour was exported in September 1996, it was replied that flour was exported and no wheat was exported. I would like to know as to what is the difference between export of wheat and flour ? On the one hand the Government resort to export but on the other hand, it purchases back the items exported by it earlier. In the last two years, the Government first resorted to export and after sometime, purchased sugar. Now, W.T.O. has come into force. Under its provisions, we will have to export compulsory and also repurchase the items thus exported. At present, commission is being earned on sale as well as purchase of goods. The same thing happened in the purchase of wheat. I had heard about commission being earned in the trading of coal but now some people have started earning brokerage in the sale and purchase of wheat also. This act is a blot on the face of the Government of India. Our image has been badly tarnished abroad by such deals. The Government has not taken any remedial measures in this regard ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I would like to raise one more point on this aspect. The Government has not taken any measures to check the increase in the prices of urea and sale of fake pesticides through out the country. The Government should introduce the Crop Insurance Scheme for the upliftment of farmers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you, now please take your seat. What more do you want to say now.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Geographically, Madhya Pradesh is the largest state of the country. However, from the point of view of electricity railway and roads, it is the most backward State. Several big irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh like Narmada Sagar dam, Onkareshwar, Maheshwar, Bansagar and Mann are lying incomplete. Sixty percent work of Mann irrigation project had been completed three years ago and since then, the work on it has not been resumed. The Government should make efforts to complete these projects expeditiously, otherwise the huge amount spent on these projects would remain unutilised.

I would also like to say that the disputes over Almatti Dam between Karnataka and Tamilnadu and over Sardar Sarovar dam between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh should be solved .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am calling the next member.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I am concluding. People are bearing the brunt of increase in prices, growing incidents of atrocities, immoral acts and corruption. The Government should realise that when subjects of a ruler are not happy, the ruler can never enjoy the fruit of happiness.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I rise to support the President's Address. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, President's Address is an important document for the nation which reveals Governments economic and foreign policies in future and the approach of the Government towards public welfare. This House is supreme and the whole world is looking towards us to know about our policies. I have heard the views of the Members from the ruling party as well as the opposition. Several important issues have been expressed here but only a few points have been made about the development of the country and people by rising above party politics.

I would like to mention the third point of the President's Address. The hon. President has justified his concern by stating that in this programme, we have to think of economic development on the one hand and equality or social justice on the other. The Government is committed to achieve this objective. It is a fact that several small and regional parties emerged in 1996 elections. This create confusion among the public and important national issues could not be debated here. This Government has been formed with the help of 13 supporting it from outside. An elected Government has not been formed in Uttar Pradesh. There are many such issues. The United Front Government prepared a common minimum programme, wherein it has been stated that it is the fundamental right of every person to get food. I would like to know from the Government about the reasons for hike in prices. During the Congress regime in 1996, flour was sold in Delhi at a rate of Rs. 5.30 per kg. but today, it is between Rs. 10 to Rs. 14 per kg. In the same way, rates of pulses at that time were Rs. 14 or Rs. 15 per kg. which is now in the range of Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 per kg. The country has produced 19 crore 20 lakh tonne of foodgrains at that time which was a record. But as per the information given by the Minister of Food, it is likely to decline by 31 lakh tonne this year. We may make good speeches here and express our views in refined manner, but it is all useless if we are unable to provide food, shelter and clothes to common man at cheaper rates. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister made an announcement that people living below poverty line will be given wheat and rice at half of the prevalent rates. The Public Distribution system is being implemented in tribal areas. The concerned Minister is not present here. The Minister of Law and the Minister of Water Resources are here. I would like to know as to how many shops have ration at present.

14.50 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

Only boards have been installed in fair price shops. The backward persons take to benefit of it. There is black-marketing in these shops. The poor are not getting sugar, wheat and rice due to black-marketing of these items. The policies, programmes and announcements are very good but the poor do not get all commodities in real terms. Several people go to sleep with empty stomach. We have been unable to break the link of poverty and starvation.

Several big buildings and houses have been constructed but these people are still living in jhuggi-jhompris in the country. Even after 50 years of Indepedence they are waiting for proper shelter and food. There is need to make amendments in the law as well as plans and policies of the Government. This should be debated. The Ninth Five Year Plan will commence from April. How many persons will be given employment during 9th plan ? Today, see crowd in cities, bazars, buses, trains etc. In the President' Address, the problem of increasing population has also been mentioned. However, this problem cannot be solved until and unless it is discussed by all political parties in their agendas. Today, we receive 10 crore application for just one crore houses.

We talk of distributing food to the people living below poverty line. But people will get fake certificates and thus, a large number of people will be covered under it. Unless we deliberate over these issues, how can we set a target for giving employment during 9th Plan ? Why there is shortage of foodgrains, even when we have 30 per cent irrigated area in the country. We can quote Punjab, Haryana and other States in this regard. I thank Patidarji for supporting this scheme. The Minister of Water Resources is present here. About 35 thousand persons are affected by this scheme. You cannot satisfy these people by giving more compensation. The tribals are interested in living in forests because they have their own culture and system. They will face a lot of problems if they are brought in urban areas. So far, the Government has been able to rehabilitated hardly 2000 or 2500 persons. You stated that a rehabilitation policy will be introduced why don't you give them the irrigation land below the dam ? Lakhs and crore of people will be benfited In this manner. After construction of these dams, people will

have to be rehabilitated. These displaced persons do not have employment and shelter to live in. If you take away the fields of the tribals, they will have to fend for employment. They are totally unaware of the life and map of cities. It is a serious problem of our country. I request the hon. Minister to introduce a rehabilitation policy for the resettlement of displaced persons.

It has also been mentioned that roads are in very bad condition in India. I would like to say that the highways linking blocks and districts should be developed for ultimate development of that specific area. A Tribal Sub-plan was prepared for the upliftment of tribals, but so far no assessment of this plan has been made. How many persons have been imparted education and what is the percentage of tribal area developed under this plan ? These issues should be debated in this House. Formulating plans and policies or the development of these areas is not sufficient. Their implementation is necessary as well.

The agitations relating to Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chattisgarh region have also been mentioned in the President's Address. I would like to know the reasons for such demands being made by the people. The reason is that they want their rights and share in the power. At the time of independence, assurances had been given that all would be given equal participation. The Minister of Law is in the House. The 9th Schedule was passed in 1996 and the hon. President had also given his assent to it. But, I would like to know whether any action has been taken by State Governments in this regard ? Whether tribals of these areas have been given some special power ? Rules and laws for the development of tribals are made only on paper but actually nothing is being done for them. A time-bound programme should be formulated for their development. In the Sixth Schedule of our Constitution, it is stated that tribal will be given power by setting up district councils if tribal areas are not developed properly. Political parties have given such assurance in their election manifestoes. There is a point in the common minimum programme regarding the Bill related to Gram Sabha. I was the Chairman of the Committee which was constituted in this regard. A Bill for 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment should be introduced and passed so as to give rights to the people. In case it is done, the people fighting for their rights will believe that they have got their rights after 50 years of our Independence and they have to march ahead themselves for their development. This debate will become useless if nothing concrete is done in this regard.

So far as forests are concerned, tribals have direct attachment with mountains and forests. This bond was not broken even during the periods of kings, emperors and also Britishers. These tribal people make this livelihood by working in these forests. Now forests are being ruined and means of livelihood of tribals are being snatched. Minerals like coal, iron, copper and diamond are being extracted from these forests and mountains. When we demand our rights in cities, these poor tribals should also be given their due rights as they are also Indian citizens. Various kinds of minerals are being extracted from there, but the local tribals are not getting even a bulb to light their homes. Foreign companies are extracting iron for export and our tribals do not know as to what is a diamond. These are the problems prevailing in tribal areas.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : You did not enlighten them.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Neither you nor they know about it. Only Patwaji knows that. I myself don't know as to what is a diamond.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Patwaji will speak after you.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : I will be happy I would like to emphasis on their upliftment. Several Schemes have been formulated and fund allocated for them but is not sufficient.

1500 hrs.

The agencies functioning in these areas have become corrupt. Whether it is Indira Awas Yojana or any other scheme, these corrupt agencies provide fake statistics and actual work is not completed. This country cannot make progress with these fake figures. The corrupt persons should not be given tickets by any party. We should have a code of conduct for politicians. The Vohra Committee had submitted a clear-cut report in this regard.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Some pages are missing there.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Leave aside the Congress party. We have come here to serve the nation and therefore, we are doing that. You people talk of a leader who can defeat another. This vitiates the atmosphere.....*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you why our party has offered its support. It is because who will run the affairs of the country ? Are you sure that any political party will alone win the majority or enjoy the mandate of public if the support is withdrawn and elections are held again. We would have been an happy if an elected Government had been formed by you in UP *(Interruptions)* Our party has made many sacrifices for the country and we are still prepared to follow that convention.

The survival of political parties depends upon the survival of the nation, for without the nation, the political parties have no existence.

What I want to say is that we should rise above party politics. How can the goal of development of common man, the poor man be achieved ? Madam, it was good that you became the chairperson of the Select Committee which has since submitted its report and we endorse its contents. We agree with reservation in the field of politics but reservation should be made in case of jobs also. How many women are in employment today ? Providing reservation facility in one

[Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria]

field won't help. We will have to build that base in advance. So long as all such facilities are not provided, no progress can be achieved. If our political leaders can suggest a way to tackle the widespread corruption, they should do so, otherwise Parliament is there as a supreme authority in which people have full faith. Hence we should rise above party politics and formulate a legislation after discussion. Even if you have to appoint a Lok Ayukt or formulate a code of conduct, you should do it. You should punish them. What is the hitch in it ? Do we not have honest people in our country. There are a number of honest persons in this vast country. Freedom fighters are still engaged in serving their nation. They want to strengthen their country. The attentions of the whole world is on this democratic country. If India turns out to be weak, all those raising the banner of democracy in the neighbouring nations will also be affected. Hence we should take all these factors into account. We should develop a moral character. Shri Chidambaram has presented the budget and I would like to speak on that also.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : The Law Minister is slumbering.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Let him slumber. if the Government falls into a slumber only then would you stay alert. If the Government does not slumber, you won't ramain alert .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : But his heart is awakening.....*(Interruptions)*

But according to rule one cannot snore.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, there is a difference. When the Prime Minister sleeps, his neck is downward but when the Law Minister is sleeping, his neck is upward. That is the difference, we must appreciate.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : He has been an ardent follower of the Prime Minister who slumbers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It happens sometimes with the Ministers and the members.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : He is thinking about 'Parlok Sabha' whereas we are worried about Lok Sabha.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : The blackmarketeers are running a parallel Government in our country. The Law Minister is present here. He slumbers at times and at times, he is awake. He has not been able to formulate any foolproof legislation to check blackmarketing. The people of our country are not fully aware about it. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister and especially, this House to take a step in order to check blackmarketing. Shri Chidambaram has presented the budget but from where does he propose to get the money for implementation of schemes and for development of the country ? The production of foodgrains is falling. I am a farmer and several of my colleagues also belong to farming community about 80 percent people are engaged in agricultural activities in our country but they do not get such facilities as water, electricity, fertilizers etc. on time. That's why the production is falling. Just now, Shri Patidar was saying something about insurance. I am against it. It is the farmer who is the most honest and diligent person engaged in his work without having Saturday, Sunday and other days off whether it is raining or it is cold; whether it is hot summer or scortching heat, he keeps on working in the fields alongwith his family members day and night. Those going in for insurance are running factories and buses today.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhuria, you have taken a lot of time.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : I will conclude within five mnutes.

Madam, our minister of Water Resources is sitting here. By dams should be built. The power generation should be increased and adequate power should be made available to farmers. It would help increase the production of foodgrains and we won't have to import it from foreign countries. Today, the foodgrains of farmers are being procured at the rate of Rs. 415 per quintal. The farmers should be given good quality seeds and fertilizers. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given us the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. Whereas the farmer are defending the country the latter are providing sufficient food for the people. Shri Chidambaram has lowered the prices of air-conditioners. He has also given relation to some people which is a good step. Oilseeds are produced in abundance in our country and the quantity of green vegetables produced here can help feed the whole world. We have all sorts of crops here. The National Front Government should pay attention towards this aspect and should formulate developmental schemes so as to help strengthen the agricultural sector and achieve progress in the field of education. I have already expressed my views about blackmarketing. Apart from that, I want to raise many other points. I would like to speak on the problem of drinking water. Drinking water is not available in villages and cities even after fifty years of Independence. Water tanks have been set up and expensive hand pumps have also been installed at some places. The Government should have anticipated the total requirement of the country after 40-50 years. If Government was unable to provide food, it should at least, have formulated a plan to make proper arrangement for drinking water. Just go to the slum areas of Delhi. What is the conditions of the poor people. No bathroom have been provided in such colonies. People are constrained to shut the windows of trains while travelling in the morning. This is not good. At least the basic minimum requirements of human beings should be met. The rich may build palatial houses but food cloth and shelter must be provided to the poor. Our Parliament has a crucial role to play in this matter. I have full confidence that my colleagues would consider this matter and think about the welfare of crores of poor people.

Madam, I thank you for having given me a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Qamarul Islam.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Does Shri Patwa's name not figure in the list ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does Shri Patwa intend to speak ?

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : We had a discussion with the hon. Speaker. As his speech would be a maiden speech, we had requested the hon. Speaker that he should be allowed to speak at three O'clock and the hon. Speaker has agreed to that. If you have allowed the other hon. Member, it would be your decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was not there in the list. That is why I called the other hon. Member. Let him finish and then Shri Patwa can speak. I hope, it is all right.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : I have also given my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got a long list of members who are yet to speak.

[English]

The dicussion has to be finished today. So I would request hon. Members to be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I won't take much time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What I want to say is that the entire list is to be cover today, hence it would be better if all the members speak briefly.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Madam, I am thankful to you for having given me the opportunity to speak on the President's Address. Fifty Years have elapsed since Independence. Our leaders made great sacrifices to achieve Independence and when the nation became Independent, the people of this country expected to get food, clothing and shelter In this democratic country. It was hoped that the poor would be able to have proper meals and would live in their own houses. It is a strange co-incidence that when elections were held in 49th year of Independece, the people of this country did not elect any one party by casting majority of votes in its favour. Rather, the majority of votes went to different parties which formed the United Front Government and Shri Deve Gowda became the Prime Minister. When he took over the leadership in this House, presented a Common Minimum programme. Other parties are also extending support to this Government from outside. Alongwith this, we also have a large opposition Party. Under this Common Minimum Programme, the United Front Government gave a gift to the poor in the form of targeted P.D.S. Our Prime Minister has announced that 32 crore people of our country living below the poverty line would be given foodgrains at half rate. A subsidy of Rs. 8000 has been given.

[English]

This is the gift of the United Front Government to the people of the poorest section of our society.

[Translation]

This facility is available for poorest of the poor but alongwith this, the ration has been slashed by 10 kg per family. They may say here that those working under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana or Employment Assurance Scheme would be given one Kg. foodgrains per day as per the number of man days, which means that they would get 40 Kg. wheat per month under this scheme. Just now, some of my colleagues have pointed out that the total requirement is 180 lakh tonne in case of rice and one lakh tonne in case of wheat. So far 90 lakh tonne of foodgrains have been procured.

[English]

By the end of 25th March we are in a position to procure another 25 lakh tonnes.

[Translation]

I believe that we have got a huge stock of foodgrains and we can easily meet the total requirement envisaged under this scheme.

So far as the position of wheat is concerned, all of us know about it and we read about it in newspapers also. Reports are pouring in from all over the country that this year. We have got a good yield of wheat which is being reaped and the yield is sufficient to meet all our requirements. Right now also the prices of imported wheat are lesser than the procurement price of wheat. Hence we need not worry.

[English]

We have already got the figures. These are the figures we have got through the Press. If any other figures are there and if any other information is there, other hon. Members are at liberty to quote the figures here when their turn comes.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : What is your point?

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : What I am saying is that we require 180 lakh tonne of rice and we have been able to procure 90 lakh tonne so far.

[English]

By the end of 25th March, we are procuring another 25th lakh tonnes.

[Translation]

By 25th March, 180 lakh tonne of rice required for the whole year would be available in our warehouses. The crop of wheat is ready to be reaped. This year we have had such a good yield that we need not worry.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Why are you importing wheat?

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : We are importing wheat at a price comparatively lower than the procurement price being given currently .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb. Let him, speak, You can also speak when your turn comes.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : I am not yielding. You can quote the figures when your turn comes. Whatever information I am having, I am quoting that.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Whether the price of imported wheat is high or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You 'll also get a chance to speak. Please do not disturb him.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : I would like to congratulate this Government. The United Front Government has given this gift to poor people under the Common Minimum Programme. The way it is working in the direction of developing good relations with the neighbouring countries is commendable indeed, especially mention worthy steps being the agreement signed with Bangladesh regarding the distribution of Ganga river and the Mahakali agreement signed with Nepal.

[English]

It is a very good achievement of the United Front Government.

[Translation]

You might have noticed and it is true also and a number of members have said in the House that whenever elections were held in Pakistan, the political parties there tried to seek votes by speaking against India. However, the election issue of the party of Shri Nawaj Sharif which has come to power this time was that if they formed the Government, they would develop good relations with its neighbouring country, India. That party got two-third majority in the elections which signalled that the Pakistanis are interested in building good relations with India. The way the things are going on and the way our Prime Minister and the United Front Government are making ahead gives me the feeling that we will be able to solve the Kashmir issue through bilateral talks under the spirit of Simla Agreement. When we have been able to solve the Ganga Water issue, we will be able to find a solution to this problem also. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Government for having done commendable job of maintaining good relations with the neighbouring countries.

We used to hear about a number of scandals. I was in Assembly for last three-four terms but the Parliament was rocked by one or the other scandal every time. However, the United Front Government is determined to introduce a Lok Pal Bill in this House in order to root-out corruption and I am confident that all the parties would unanimously pass the Lakpal Bill in order to stampt out corruption from this country. It is stated in the Common Minimum Programme that corruption would be eradicated. I congratulate this Government for having made a mention regarding the Lokpal Bill in the Presidential Address. I think that for the just time, we have got this opportunity to strengthen the federal system of this country. Earlier we had a one party Government which made a tall claims. Sarkaria Commission was set up but when the question of giving more and more financial powers was raised, those powers were not given and the recommendations were put into cold storage. However, in the present Government, the Ministers are from Janata Dal and other regional parties. Thus in order to ensure proper implementation of Sarkaria Commission's recommendations in the states, the Conference of Chief Ministers was held and it was followed by the conferences of the National Development Council and the Inter-State Council. In these conferences there were directions to the effect that the United Front Government would implement the Sarkaria Commissions recommendation very soon so as to strengthen our federal system. Madam. I do not wish to speak at length. I feel that all the Hon'ble Members should get sufficient time, hence we should avoid making lengthy speeches. But there are one or two points which the other have not raised and which I would like to raise as several members are present here. There was a black law by the name of TADA– At one time, it was made a weapon to target certain people. A number of people were arrested under this draconian law which included the good as well as the bad, the guilty as well as the innocent. Some of them became the victims of police excesses. The leaders of all political parties and all the State Governments voiced their concern that a number of innocent people were also detained under this black law. According to a report released 2-3 months ago, even now approximately 5500 to 6000 people are lauguishing in Jails and even today no chargesheet has been filed against them. How will we face the world when on the one hand our country advocates a certain policy and throws a challenge to the whole world but on the other hand, there are some such persons in this country who have been languishing in jail for the last four years without any chargesheet being filed againt them. Cutting across the party lines, I would like to make an appeal to all my colleagues and friends in this House. Whether they belong to the ruling or the opposition party that at least a direction should be given to all the State Governments that they should submit a report within 30 days in this regard. Further a committee should be formed and case-wise review should be done to identify the innocent out of those actually guilty and against whom serious charges have been levelled. If the State Government feels that injustice has been done in certain cases, such cases should be reviewed and such people should be released within 30 days. Think about all those innocent people detained in jail. What sort of feeling they might be murturing in their hearts for their nation. Those who are guilty should be punished but why should the innocent undergo punishment. Hence I would make an appeal to all the members of this House to press for the constitution of a committee. This committee should be granted 30 days to submit its report and after case-wise review, the innocent should be let off.

Mr. Chairman, I would like add one more point regarding reservation. My home State was under the rule of Deve Gowda Government. He was the Chief Minister of the State. There is 4 percent reservation for minorities. My friend Shri Ananth Kumar is also present here.

[English]

We have got reservation there. In Kerala also we have got reservation for religious minorities, it is 17 percent.

[Translation]

It is 8 percent for muslim. We do not with to encroach upon anybody's rights but we have not got our rightful share in these 50 years. We only want that we should get the reservation facility in Government jobs, in education and other Government or Semi-Government industries on the basis of population.

[English]

Every law enacted in the State is under the spirit of the Constitution. When the minorities of Kerala can get reservation and the minorities in Karnataka can get reservation, I demand in this House that there should be reservation for all sections of the people of the backward class as per their population.

[Translation]

The Government should give them reservation facility on the basis of their population. There is no fear of any confrontation. Nobody's rights should be encroached upon. No other decision can be as fistoric as this one. The time will come when all the sections of the society, whether it is the backward section, the minorities or any other section would get their rightful share. No other decision can be as crucial as this one. We should unitedly stand for reservations on the basis of population.

I would like to wind up with this last point. Some of the Members have made certain remarks about our Prime Minister, Shri H.D Deve Gowda. One of my friend sitting on the other side has stated that corruption is prevalent everywhere. That this Government is a bundle of a few parties. Our colleagues deliver very good speeches outside the House and I hoped that I would get chance to listen to some very good speeches and some constructive suggestions would come forth in this House as well.

[English]

What is the alternate programme? Even in this House, as far as the United Front Government is there, the President's Address of this Government is nothing but the reflection of the Common Minimum Programme. I was expecting the hon. Members from the opposition side to say that such and such thing is not there in the common minimum programme and it is not reflecting that Programme. But I am hearing somebody saying about common civil code and somebody is saying something else.

[Translation]

Someone advocates something else. We read in the newspaper daily that the larger the party, the larger the number of criminals. Just now, I was going through a newsreport in the Indian Express, wherein it is stated.

[English]

There are 27 in the party which the largest opposition.

[Translation]

On one hand, we claim to discourage criminals and on the other hand, the criminals are being given party tickets and they are getting elected also. We speak against the corrupt people. Whereas the corrupt people are still winning elections.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Such is not the case with all the parties.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : I am not talking about any particular party. But about all the political parties.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: You can't say such things about each and every party.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : I have not taken the name of any particular party. We should keep the debate general. You may go through the Indian Express report which says that the largest party has 27 criminals and similarly there are criminals in other parties also.

What I want to say is that we may have been elected to Lok Sabha for the just time. But we have served as MLAs in State Assemblies for three terms and after having been elected to listen to some constructive speeches, but so far we haven't got this opportunity. I was hopeful that I would get to hear some concrete suggestions of young and dynamic colleagues on the Common Minimum Programme. I agree that some members have raised very good points which we appreciate but a lot of new members like myself hope that the standard of debate in Lok Sabha should improve further.

[English]

We should learn some things from our Opposition friends and they should also be very sincere.

[Translation]

Criticism should not come on petty things. We should raise such matters here which are proper and justified and let us not attach much importance to the rumours. Whatever is said by our colleagues, should be based on facts and figures.

So far as Shri Deve Gowda ji is concerned, the whole country knows that recently a survey of 28 thousand people was conducted by a newspaper and 48 percent people have expressed their opinion in favour of the present Prime Minister against the 6 former Prime Ministers.

[English]

The most pro-poor Prime Minister is Shri Deve Gowdaji.

[Translation]

I have got a copy of the survey report which was conducted a few days back by a newspaper which I want to place before you. People have expressed their opinion in it as to who is pro-poor and who is against them. Deve Gowdaji is not merely the leader of Janata Dal rather our madam is also working under his leadership. Our Left Parties have also joined the Government under his leadership. All of us are functioning as per the Common Minimum Programme with the objectives of serving the interests of the poor. We know

[Shri Qamarul Islam]

that the BJP is the main opposition party in our state. We have placed the Common Minimum Programme before the country inspite of many pulls and pressures. The determination of the United Front Government –

[English]

We are standing on a very strong determination.

[Translation]

And that is come what may, we will implement our policies and programmes at any cost. We are determined to improve the living standard of our poor people. We will provide food, shelter and other basic amenities to every poor.

With these few words once again I congratulate to our Prime Minister.

Madam, Chairperson, last time the previous Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 900 crores to accelerate the irrigation projects but this Government has increased this amount to Rs. 1300 crores so that the projects left their mid way are completed and more irrigation water is made available to our farmers for irrigation purposes. This will certainly increase the foodgrain production in our country.

[English]

That was an historic decision of the Deve Gowda Government, that is, the United Front Government

[Translation]

When the land is made fertile, it will get us more and more increased production of foodgrains and send a new wave of happiness among the people of the country :

[English]

I am very much thankful to you for giving me sufficient time. I think, I have obliged your order by finishing my speech in a minimum possible time. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Sunder Lal Patwa will speak. It is his maiden speech. Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Madam, Chairperson, this is the first time I am going to speak in this House. The people of Chhindwara have given me this opportunity to express some of my views before this House. I am thankful to the people of Chhindwara who gave me this opportunity by sending me to this House but, at the same time, I am also thankful to Shri Kamal Nath ji, for had not he asked his wife to give her resignation, elections would not have been held and I also would not have got an opportunity to enter this House. But I do feel sorry that this opportunity was given to me after removing a female Member from her membership.

Madam, I have been coming to this House since 28th February, the day when the President's Address was read out by the Hon'ble President and listening to new and senior Members of this House. I have spent my 30 years by sitting in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly. That was a different kind of experience. I have come to this House with some new hopes and expectations. I have again gone through the President's Address word by word. The Prime Minister delivers his speech on every 26th January from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Likewise on the eve of 26th January every year the Hon'ble President delivers his Address to the nation. This year also, at the very outset of his address, he said that he and the people like him are very sad to note that even after the 50 years of our independence, the President of this country is helplessly required to address the nation, that too with such opening lines that the nexus between the criminals and corrupts is a threat to the country and it has reached to such a dangerous level that the people of this country must oppose it. The President in Para two of his Address says that –

[English]

> "This is my first Address to Parliament after the present Government assumed office.
>
> The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government contains the basic agenda of crucial areas of national development, equity, social justice and secularism."

[Translation]

All the members who have spoken in its favour have recited same sentences from Geeta, Bible, Kuran, Bhagwat etc. i.e. Social Justice, National Development and Secularism. I have heard the speech of Shri Somnath Chatterjee also who is a very senior and respected member of this House and supporting this Government from outside. In his speech he has expressed his views in the following terms.

[English]

> "The United Front Government is not just a combination of political parties born out of political expedience. It is the result of the clearest mandate of the people of this country who have opted for a secular and democratic administration in this country. They want the Government to be guided by transparency, probity and accountability. The clearest decision of the people of this country is that the communal forces have to be halted".

[Translation]

We are sitting in opposition . In your speeches, you people are branding us by several names such as communal, non-secular etc. and calling yourselves as Secular, non-communal.

[English]

> " I believe that even the Congress Party has accepted the Common Minimum Programme which is nothing but a testament of hopes, urges and aspirations of the people of this country. It is a Charter of comprehensive development. Let people enjoy the minimum rights which the Constitution makers have provided for the citizens of this country ".

[Translation]

Shri Chidambaram Saheb has also started his speech by terming us with the same names.

Madam, Chairperson, now, I would like to mention another thing. On the day when this Government was formed and was seeking vote of confidence, leader of the Congress Shri Narashimha Rao ji while giving his party's outside support to this Government, said in his speech I have read it in that day's proceeding that –

[English]

> "Now, people say, what is your understanding with Deve Gowda Ji? I am sorry, Sir, I do not deal with, I do not believe in understanding, secret understanding. Whatever understanding there is, I am telling you that it is now here.My understanding with Deve Gowda Ji is that this Party will not allow that Government to fall under any circumstances ".

[Translation]

Shri Narashimha Rao says that his understanding is –

[English]

> "That this Party will not allow that Government to fall under any circumstances, History will not say that it was because of the Congress Party that Deve Gowda's Government fell. I am telling you what I can do and what my Party can do and that is what my Party is determined to do. We have seen the programme. Well, part of it looks like our manifesto"

[Translation]

He says that they are like us only. There is no difference and we are all same.

Madam, Chairperson, I ask you whether they were the same people at the time of elections? Whether there were no difference between them at the time of elections? They were the poles apart at the time of elections but now they are one and have formulated a Common Minimum Programme. I do not know if I will be able to explain the things to you but you have got a very great mind and you can understand the things easily. This Government is expert in cajoling the people into its word gimmicks. It is expert in misleading the people with the power of words. This Government is a living example of hypocrisy. This time no party has got a clear majority. This is a fact and if the people have given any mandate, it has gone in favour of the single largest party and that is Bhartiya Janata Party. Rest of other parties are scattered here and there. But these people claim that mandate has gone in their favour.

I was surprised to listen Shri Somnath Chatterjee claiming that the mandate has gone in their favour. He said in his speech,

[English]

> "It is a result of the clearest mandate of the people of this country who have opted for a secular and democratic administration in this country and they want a Government to be guided by transparency..."

[Translation]

You people are making fun of people's mandate in an unprecedental way, Narsimha Rao says further in his speech.

[English]

> "That is the reason, And there is another reason. I feel that this is a very very natural bifurcation of the House."

This is a very very natural bifurcation of the House.

[Translation]

If you join hands with one another and stop us from coming to power, will it be a natural bifurcation? O.K. we do welcome this bifurcation. Let the people decide. Let the people decide as to what they want.

The day Shri Deve Gowda has taken over as Prime Minister, his colleagues have been exchanging allegations and what kind of people they are, I do not need to say more over it. I was reading today's newspaper. Shri Biju Patnaik is a very senior and respected leader of your party. Today I was reading his statement in a newspaper. Shri Biju Patnaik has termed the United Front Government as a group ridden with infightings among its constituents. He has suggested that in case the Congress and the CPM join the Government, it will be delivering the goods in a better way. Shri Biju Patnaik has said these things in an interview given to the Home T.V. He has said that 13 most active giant crabs have been filled in a pot.

[English]

It is not from Sunderlal Patwa, Khalap *Saheb*, it is from the most honourable Biju *dada*

[Translation]

13 most active crabs have been filled in a pot and the name of the alone person who is trying to control them is Shri H.D. Deve Gowda.Biju Dada says that it is unfortunate that he should be addressed as Prime Minister. Whether Sunderlal Patwa needs to say something more than this? An another newspaper writes – Janata Dal leader Shri Biju Patnaik said today that United Front Government is creating scenes like fighting fish. He said that in case Congress and CPM join the Government .....*(Interruptions)* Hail Biju Da. You are great. Friends like you are there in this party...*(Interruptions)* In an interview to Home T.V. he has said that there are 13 very active fish in this reservoir and a person, namely Shri Deve Gowda, is trying a put a check on them...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : He said these things in his interview to Home T.V. But let him say something in his interview to this Parliament.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : Brother, talk about Parliament. We have got ten fish but you are divided in 50.

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : Please, take your seat. You are welcome. I do not think Sunderlal Patwa needs to give any other certificate to this Government. This is unprecedented, so is this Government The Almighty Power have created all kinds of living creatures in this world. Some of them are having two legs, some are quadruped and so on but this is for the first time that a creature with 13 legs have taken birth.... (*Interruptions*) Every day it gets one more legs. Now Biju *da* wants to add two more legs.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : No, this is not my intention. But do not forget that this gentleman, Shri Vajpayee ji, your President, was also not a part of our Government?

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : We were also with you.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I know. But were not we 13, 14 or 15 at that time?

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : That time it was only a Janata Party. You were my leader also. You had made me Chief Minister.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Yes, *I know it.*

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : But you left us.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I want that all of you should abandon Hinduism and join hands for the sake of the country.

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : "Chhod Gaye Balam, Saath Hamara Chood Gaye, Budhe Balam"

The President had to warn the nation that nexus between corrupts and criminals have reached to a dangerous level and is posing threat to the country which requires our outright rejection. What the people of this country are doing in response to it. From the very first day you assumed the power, you have been charging us as communal but you can not mislead the people of this country. Who is communal, secular or pseudosecular among us, is a matter to be decided by the people of this country and not by us. Whatever propaganda and rumour you may create against us you can do no harm to us. Your hypocricy is going to yield you no results. It has been decided by the people of this country that we are the nationalists. We are their voice. They have decided that we are the people who think about the nation, who know how to take the country ahead. The outcome of Punjab elections is before you.

I am also a result of the same decision in Chhindwara. The verdict which was never given by the people in the last 50 years, has been given this time. This time people have given their verdict in our favour. I am not saying these things under any false impression or out of arrogance, I am saying these things with all my humility. We always accept the decision of the people very humbly and we also want you to accept humbly the decision of the people or else your names may find a place in the history.

Chhindwara elections were very much in the news. Pseudo-secularism was defeated and nationalism emerged victorious in that election. Nationalism and unity have emerged victorious in Punjab, Nagaur, Ropar, Mumbai and Delhi. Our Prime Minister is not sitting here otherwise I would have asked him....(*Interruptions*) Howsoever moaning and crying you may do, it is going to make no difference for the people of this country who want us to move ahead and now they are helping us in our this drive. We were sitting in Delhi and Punjab was in the grip of terrorism but who had abetted terrorism in Punjab, is no more a secret thing now. I feel pity for this Government when it say that people have given their mandate to secularism. I would say it is a pseudo-secularism.

Had the hon'ble Home Minister been sitting over here in the morning, he would have come to know about the condition in Uttar Pradesh. There is virtually chaos in the Government side on this score. Different versions are coming from different people in the Government. There are 13 parties and each one is having its own version on this issue. Some of our friends in Congress are patting the back of this Government today but tomorrow they will be issuing warning to the Government saying that this time we are forgiving you but, if you abuse us next time, we will see you. It means that this Government is facing threats from the supporting party. One is abusing, another is threatening and then forgiving. The Minister of Home Affairs has stated the factual position prevailing in the state of Uttar Pradesh. What type of a collective responsibility this Government is sharing, I doubt it, for its Home Minister speaks one language, Defence Minister speaks other, the Prime Minister speaks something else and the Governor speaks altogether differently which is quite surprising for the people of this country.

I was taken aback when I went through the President's Address. In para 52 of the Address, which is the last one, one line has been deleted. Probably this has been done first time, in the history of last 50 years. There should be at least some consistency, some values to be followed. It should not be that you have mentioned something in the President's Address and then you are deleting it later on. What is this?

Farooq Abdullah Saheb came to Chhindwara and there he realised something and declared that if Kashmir issue is to be solved then one third area of Pak-occupied Kashmir should be handed over to Pakistan. Our Prime Minister has also given a interview to 'Khaliz Times' and said

[English]

"with some minor adjustments"

[Translation]

There is a Minister by the name of Ajat Shatru in the Government of Farooq Saheb. This naive fellow has moved four steps ahead and said that he would move a motion in the Legislative Assembly and get it passed. He and his colleagues will insist on referendum. Biju da, one of his colleagues is a minister in your cabinet also whose name is Soj Saheb. Right now he is not present here. Whether Soj Saheb supports the statement made by Farooq Saheb and the Jammu Kashmir minister. Or does he oppose it? He should express his reaction on these statements. The Government is an institution in itself and it functions with collecitve responsiblity therefore, calling this Government, a government, would be an insult to the word 'Government' itself. This is quite a strange thing.

[English]

Their presence is by accident and not by *Janadesh*

[Translation]

Don't demean the word "mandate' by calling it mandate. This is just by accident that you are here. Deve Gowda Saheb is also here just by accident. Jyoti Baboo was persuaded, V.P. Singh was persuaded but when neither of them agreed, he was given this opportunity. There is a saying in our Malwa:

"Mani Na Sahi To Kani Hi Chalegi"

The mandate which has been referred to in the President's Address is not at all in favour of the people sitting in the treasury benches. If there is any mandate at all, it has been given in favour of the nationalism or, in other words, if any party has got mandate, it is our party. We people have been given the real mandate. It is true that we have not got clear mandate in the last elections but today Bhartiya Janata Party has become the single largest party after travelling a long journey since the time of Jansangh in 1951. The people sitting over this side in front of me including Shri Somnath Chatterjee or Shri Patnaik howsoever efforts may make to stop the Bhartiya Janata Party from coming to power but, if anything can stop Bhartiya Janata Party from marching towards Delhi, it is the people of the country and nobody else. But people of this country want us to come to power. You people are there just by accident. Therefore, you should be very careful in using the words in order to make them acceptable by the people. Deve Gowda Saheb understands his position very well. He is a very very smart player of politics. His election to Lok Sabha and to the post of the Prime Minister does not suit him. Nobody knows about the present term of this Lok Sabha. Whether for tomorrow he will be allowed to enter Karnataka or not, nobody knows. No body knows whether they will be given good treatment or bad? Therefore, try ensure your seat atleast for six years. He has got it arranged which is why he said yesterday in Karnataka that now only the All mighty Power can dethrone him. No body else can do any harm to him.

Howsoever united you people may be but this is not a Government of choice and the support is also not of choice rather this is a support given under compulsion. Yes, Bhuriya ji this is a support under compulsion.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Bhuriya ji is already in trouble. He has been a yes man right from the very beginning....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : Hon'ble Kesari ji came and showed his all colours by saying that if Deve Gowda can become the Prime Minister why can not Sita Ram Kesari?....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Why not Atal Ji?.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : Yes, why not, a time will come when you will see us sitting over that side. We will be sitting over there in your life time and getting your blessings...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : So what, what can I do ? I did not stop you from coming to power. Only God is there to help you....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : If we come to power next time our Government shall last far another 13 years....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : May God help you

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : In your life time...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : You people talk of nationalism. Do you know what is the nationalism? You can not know it.

[English]

His *Rashtrawad* is breaking-up the nation into twenty pieces,

[Translation]

When Vajpayee ji went out after making his submissions, did any body say anything at that time...(*Interruptions*) We are fighting for Kashmir for the last fifty years and you people say that you will not claim Kashmir. Thousands of our people have sacrificed their lives during the last fifty years for Kashmir. He said to accept the Line of Actual Control. What is the problem with you....(*Interruptions*)

15.59 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : You are a senior leader. I respect you so much.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : What can I tell you ?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the burning issues of U.P. and Jammu and Kashmir have not been mentioned in the Presidential Address, at all though unusal and unprecedented incidents are occuring in U.P.

16.00 hrs.

The elected M.L.As of U.P. have not taken oath even after six months of elections. You are trying to stop BJP from forming Government. It is an insult to the mandate given by people of U.P. It is your discretion and you can call any party to form Government but it is not proper that elected Member could not take oath even after six months of winning elections. Such a situation has never emerged in the history of India. But at present the Constitution of India, is being violated. It is not a matter of concern that BJP is forming Government there today or tomorrow, but it is really a serious matter that for six months elected Members could not take oath. The Constitution is being violated in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The alliance party members who misused Article 356 for a long time are now making promise for its abrogation. Who will trust them ?

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue. Loosing or winning elections does not make much difference in a democracy. Victory is not an exclusive right of any political party. Public can give its mandate to any

[Shri Sunder Lai Patwa]

Party. But the question is whether such steps would not loose our faith in democratic system and the Constitution of India. I do not know whether you ponder over such points or not ? I would like to ask Shri Deve Gowda and the Members of treasury benches whether they are all eternal ? What will be their placement in history of the country. None is immortal and it should not be thought atleast in democratic system. The Governments should go on changing and people should have options in choosing Governments. BJP has become the number one political party of the country in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and in many other states. It is at number one or two in .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN (Palani) : It is only in North India and not in South India. You cannot come there .....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : It is your kindness. Please wait for a little. There also our party is winning elections. You please ask your Prime Minister about his performance in Ramnagar. He always talks about the mandate given by the public. I would like to know as to what was the position of Shri H.D. Deve Gowda in Ramnagar ? For that mandate .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN : BJP has also lost in Ramnagar .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : BJP has also lost in Ramnagar. The number of votes which your party has got has come down from 22,000 to 6,000. The number of votes of our party has gone up from 48,000 to 54,000. This is the position.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : It is not a question of B.J.P. We ourselves are enough to worry for BJP. You can pray for defeat of BJP. You should take care of your Prime Minister who was elected Chief Minister but asked to join Central Government. Now in dilemma, he lost his position at Centre and as well as in the State. God only can save Shri Deve Gowdaji if he keeps a company of the people like you, please take care of him. He is a clever man and reserved his seat for six years. He has stated that except God none can remove him, you are following him under compulsion.

Mr. Chairman, hon. Home Minister is not present here who is one of the senior Member of the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think he is the senior-most member.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Personally, I have great respect for him. He revealed his intimate thoughts in the public. He is being degraded for revealing truth. I may agree or not agree with the ideology of Shri Indrajit Gupta, but he is an honest and devoted worker. He earned respect and reverence of public and his moral credentials are beyond doubt but I would like to know from you as to whether this office of Ministry of Home Affairs carries such an importance that you are paying such a high price for it quietly. In such a situation, even common man would have left the charge of Home Ministry for such controversy that he had been punished for revealing the truth.

This office of Ministry of Home Affairs does not carry that weightage.....*(Interruptions)* I would like to convey my message to him. This Government will not function for long time. It is really a sin, if voters are insulted, provisions of the Constitution and Article 356 are violated, dignity of democratic system is denigrated and such a situation is created that public loose faith in democratic system. Public is punishing you and will go on punishing you in future as well for this sin.

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : This is not misused. You are not able to form the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Sir, the basic issues have not been touched in the Presidential Address because it lacked originality. Several issues like price rise are before the Government but no attention has been paid to the future of the country.

Mr. Chairman, I hail from Madhya Pradesh. There is a tribal area Sarguja. Bhuriaji knows about it and the Government of Madhya Pradesh has admitted that .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should be no interruptions and no running conversation while an hon. Member is speaking.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Sir, the tribals of Sarguja are compelled to eat meat of monkeys to satisfy hunger. The Government has admitted this fact in Legislative Assembly. I, myself had been to Sarguja where I found that those people are compelled to catch monkeys. In Baitul people are living on leaves. Who is responsible for all this state of affairs. Who have ruled the countries during last 50 years.

Sir, I was listening to the speech of Shri Bhuria. Who himself is responsible for creating the conditions narrated by him. BJP is not responsible for it. There is no answer to such basic questions. Prices have risen sharply during the last year and the Economic condition is dwindling. Our position is declining in everyfield. The burden of debt has increased. Chidambaramji has paid Rs. 68 crore as interest on this debt .....*(Interruptions)* It is an alarming situation, Deve Gowdaji and Khallapji.

The position of power is also a matter of concern. Under the liberalisation policy the power sector had been considered for privatisation during the Congress regime under the Prime

Minister Shri Narsimha Rao. At that time, I was Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Under the rules and regulations formulated for open competitions, four MOUs were signed with the private sector. But later on our Government was toppled. I would like to state that in spite of the issue of liberalisation taken up so enthusiastically, there has been no progress in this matter during the last four years. The demand of power is increasing day by day in the country and this pure verbosity.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Had there been no power generation in Madhya Pradesh during the last four years.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Not a single megawatt power has been generated.

AN HON. MEMBER : Not even in U.P.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : Not even a single Megawatt.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Not even in Karnataka where the Chief Minister was Hon. Shri H.D. Deve Gowda.

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Shri Ananth Kumar, you should get ready to clarify. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly allow the hon. Member from Chhindwara to continue his specch.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Neither in the Presidential Address, nor in the speech made by Shri Chidambaram mention of this alarming situation has been made whereas the development and industrialisation of the country depends upon it. This Government proclaim to be a Government having public mandate but no measures or schemes have been proposed or concern has been expressed over the situation. *(Interruptions)* Sir for the last four years these schemes have been confined to papers only but actually nothing has been done. This Government is still in dreaming state.

In Presidential Address, it had been mentioned that a different type of federalism has been created. Except the Morarji Desai and V.P. Singh Government for sometimes, through out the Congress has ruled this country since independence. You cannot escape responsibility of this situation. Under this different and new kind of federalism, Farooq Abdullah advocates to give 1/3 part of Kashmir to Pakistan. One Member of his party is a Minister in your cabinet.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : You do not know about that.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Then, you please tell me about it.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : You do not know anything about it.

[English]

In 1947 I flew down in a plane. None of you came. I contained the Pakistan Army there.

[Translation]

You are continuously discussing the Kashmir issue. You are trying to make it an issue of Hinduism. Please talk about the country and not Hinduism.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : If Bijuji intends to stop me .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : No, I do not intend to stop you. In1985 only two Members of this party were elected and gradually their number increased to 86 and after demolishing Babri Masjid their number increased to 163. This is the history of this party.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Now please help me to increase this number upto 300.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : No, it is enough. Now try to squeeze your powers.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Please do some good in your life.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : May be.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : We are old colleagues.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : That is there.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : We are your followers, disciples.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Are you disciple or the mentor, you call yourself nationalists but this nation has already divided in three parts. Do not try to further divide it in ten parts. I cannot bear that.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : No compromise can be made on this matter. Public of this country intends to encourage nationalists and is doing that. We have not divided the nation into three parts. What kind of federalism is it ? Narsimha Rao ji is giving autonomy, a little less than independence, Dr. Farooq Abdullah advocates to give 1/3 part of Kashmir to Pakistan and Deve Gowdaji is trying to make minor adjustments. A Resolution was passed on this issue unanimously by the Parliament and all the Members had taken oath but now this new federalism is trying to dissipate it. Israel can wait for 2000 years for regaining its motherland. Whether we have no honour for our motherland and whether it is a personal property of someone that it can be divided and subdivided. Every inch of India's land is sacred and respectable for us. We will fight against and prove your faults in public. If the persons favouring or advocating the so called Pseudo-secularism will try to bargain for the security and integrity of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, their one point programme is to stop BJP from forming Government. You can learn lessons from the history. Kansa tried to do away with lord Krishna. But you are only interested in keeping your position intact and not concerned with the history, Purans and old culture of our country.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Therefore Pakistan was created.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : It has been done by the Government, its Ministers leaders and its policies.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the name of federalism .....

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : You can bring that back if Government handover it. It may take 100, 200 or 500 years.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether it is the new federalism ? *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this Presidential Address .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Joshi, no interruption, please.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Biju Patnaik, I am not checking you. I was checking Shri Dau Dayal Joshi.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai–North East) : Why, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is too senior a Member for me to check.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : After Shri Patwa's speech, let Shri Biju Patnaik enlighten us on all the issues. *(Interruptions)*. We would welcome his speech. *(Interruptions)*.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Shri Patwa is saying that 2000 years ago, India was one country. But it is not that. He is not telling the truth because India was a multi-nation ruled by so many kings. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Patwa, I think, this is your maiden speech. I would not like to check you. But you have taken about 50 minutes. How much more time would you like to take to complete your speech ?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : As you wish, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to complete early.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Yes, Sir. *(Interruptions)*.....*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : *(Interruptions)**

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : That was a Tamil country. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Ramalingam, please resume your seat. Will you please resume your seat

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramalingam, will you resume your seat ?

.....*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, why is he saying like this?

*Not Recorded

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : That is their understanding* .....*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : That is not correct. That was Tamil country.....*(Interruptions)* Even Alexander had not entered the South – Tamil Nadu. .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramalingam, I am on my legs. Please do not force me to take any further action. Kindly respect the Chair.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : He is only recalling the history.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : *.....*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, it is not correct .....*(Interruptions)* They are also Tamilians. Previously Ceylon and Tamil Nadu were one country. .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Sir, India was not united for the past 2,000 years. It was united after the rule by British regime. .....*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, he is misleading the House. Those remarks are not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, those remarks will be removed.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those remarks have been expunged now. Please resume your seat.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Thank you Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind the history of India to those Members, who have forgotton it. I would like to say that India is the only country in the world which never invaded any other country. It is our thousands of years old history .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly do not interrupt now because time is getting on.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I will take my seat if you allow him to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I ask the hon. Minister to kindly direct the Members of his party not to Interrupt ? Shri Khalap, may I kindly request you to ask your Members not to interrupt too frequently ?

*Not Recorded

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude within ten minutes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, these basic questions have not been answered in the Presidential Address. The Government have not expressed its concern over these issues. This Presidential Address is the document of a Government which has been formed by accident. They are not sure about stability of the Government then how they can pay attention towards progress of the country.....*(Interruptions)*. They have started this again. They are trying to run the Government as well as the House in the same way.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I will listen your complete speech. I will go only when you finish it.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : My colleagues do not have even this much courtesy that maiden speech of a Member should not be interrupted. You have right to say your version. .....*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : You are speaking for the last one hour.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : It is the duty of the Chair .....*(Interruptions)* I would like to make out one point which has been addressed to public. This Presidential Address is the document of such a Government which is not worried about the country, its democratic system, federalism, future and challenges before it. I would like to draw your attention towards one point that this Government have come to power by the grace of God and this opportunity should be utilized for welfare of public. Humanyun had given a chance to a water-carrier to rule for one day. Who is well known in history for menting his leather coins. The country pay respect and honour to Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri who had been Prime Minister for just one year. I do not know as to whether Deve Gowdaji and his cabinet colleagues are trying to be like the water carrier or Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had tried to do so. Whether you have read this Presidential Address. Are you all not jointly responsible for it ? The Government have not bothered what was written in the Presidential Address. Later on fearing the reaction of the previous Congress Government they decided to change the script by striking of some lines. What the public can expect from a Government which takes the Presidential Address so casually. This Government is not at all worried about federalism of the country. Would you like to go into history with a profile that this party got a chance to set up Government but public rejected them for their inefficiency. You should do good if you are given chance. There is no need to tell about performance of various political parties in Uttar Pradesh. I would like my friends of Congress Party to know as to how long you followed this Government .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI (Srinagar) : Why are you worrying about it. This is a matter between them and us.....

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : At present Congress has been elected to power in Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Congress will vanish if it keeps on following them. So get rid of them at the earliest. Are you not aware of the fact that Home Minister is being insulted and they are also pushing you around. I would like to cite an example. Once a river was flooded with water and all the creatures like crab, snake, scorpion, bear, monkey and mongoose climbed up a huge tree. All these prepetual ememies were sitting peacefully because they knew that flood water will wash them away if they fight. They all were waiting the water to recede. But this water is not going to recede and they have to die of starvation or eat each other. In the same way. Now BJP is enjoying public support and due to fear of increasing strength of nationalist forces, all these rival political parties have come together to form Government. Therefore, Deve Gowda is sayhing that all these political parties have no alternative except supporting him. It is up to you that how these facts should be taken. At present our constitution, democracy and public's faith in democracy are at stake.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are reeling under gruesome conditions. Various casteist armies and fractionalism have been created in the name of delivering social justice. We also favour the social justice and wish to create an egalitarian society. We wish that wealth and prosperity should be divided equally among all. It is really shameful for a patriot that even 50 years after independence some people are compelled to catch and eat monkeys to escape starvation. It is not in the interest of anyone if poison of casteism is spread to divide the country for satisfying their lust for power. You are creating a segmental society in U.P. and Bihar. The political as well as social stability of the country is at stake today.

Therefore, I would like to say that in this Presidential Address I did not find anything for supporting this Motion of thanks. It lacks originality and does not deal with problems of the country properly. With due respect for Hon. President, I request all the hon. Members to oppose this Motion of Thanks.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you that I have been given a chance to speak on the Motion of Thanks. I wholeheartedly support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which have been brought forward by Shri Sharad Yadav in this House. In this regard, I want to raise an important point which was not included in the President's Address.

Our country is predominantly an agricultural country and as the hon. Members are well aware that agricultural workers suffer a lot due to natural calamities and old age etc. Nobody looks after their interests and nothing has been said about their problems in this Address, though they are the backbone of our nation. We all agree that they are the backbone of our economy, yet nothing has been said about them in this Address. This is not correct.

Many issues are discussed here and our Prime Minister has given an assurance in this House that we will soon introduce a bill to safeguard the interests of agricultural workers yet nothing has been mentioned about it in the Presidents' Address.

[Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh]

Mr. Chairman, through you I draw the attention of the Government and urge them that they should bring a comprehensive bill for these workers so that they achieve some help and facilities in their old age and during natural calamities.

Mr. Chairman another thing I want to mention is that cultivation of Jute is not a profitable venture in the country. The farmers are not earning any profit due to which jute Mills are facing closure and jute workers have become unemployed. They are practically on the roads and are starving. You should increase the minimum price of jute so that jute cultivation becames remunerative and those mills which are closed could be respond and workers could be re-employed in these mills. This is my request as well as this is the firm belief of our party that this should be done.

Mr. Chairman, thirdly I would like to say that in our democractic system there are three pillars of democracy – Legislative, executive and judiciary. Their standards have declined. The people have lost faith in democracy. Their standards have declined and are still on the decline. The main reason behind is corruption. Due to corruption normal works are not being done. The corrupt have become so strong that development works under Prime Minister's employment scheme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojna, Employment Guarantee scheme and other schemes are not being done properly as corruption have spread everywhere and we are unable to reap any benefits.

Mr. Chairman, my suggestion is that in the present circumstances a survey of immovable properties owned by political leaders of the country, who have been in politics for the last 25-30 years and senior officers belonging to legislative, executive and judiciary should be conducted. If this Government is for the poor people of the country, then this survey should be coducted. These will reveal how big politicians and senior officers are involved in looting the country. How they have accumulated so much wealth through corrupt practices and the properties these people have accumulated is proof of corruption. We talk of development but it is useless the country is heading towards insurgency. So today we request you to conduct a survey or enquiry in this regard which will give a true picture.

Mr. Chairman corruption is also prevalent in various Departments of Ministry of Defence. The Minister of Defence is not present in the House at present. I want to tell you that even a well built, tall and healthy person is unable to join armed forces due to corruption prevalent at the time of recruitment those who have money and can give bribes are recruited in the army. I would like to give an example. Healthy and well built persons are unable to join the army, even after their recruitment they are declared unfit in the general interview. Shri Sunil Sahu is one such recruiting officer posted in Gaya contonment, he accepts bribes for recruitment. A boy from my area was appointed and he cleared the fitness exams as well but he was not allowed to take the general test because he could not pay the bribe. His name is Dinesh. We took him and met the Defence Secretary and he was called again. When he again went there then he was told you can go anywhere. This is our right we will not take you. This is what is happening poor youths are distancing themselves from the national mainstream and they are very unhapply due to corruption. This is a sign of dangar and we are bringing it to your notice. We want an enquiry to be conducted so that these things can be detected. Thirdly I would like to say that some people are pointing fingers at the judiciary. There is a conspiracy to restrict the power of judiciary and my party are opposed to it. Today judiciary is exposing the corrupt people in the country. They can be members of my party also.

Mr. Chairman, we shout from the rooftops that corruption is bad. If it is bad and we decide here that it is bad then we should find out who all are corrupt. If we say that a criminal should not be allowed to enter into politics then how it be able to do that and how does he become a members. How are we going to decide it. If Lok Sabha is the highest body then who will take a decision in this regard. Criminals, who are under police *surveillance* are today boldly sitting in the legislature and Lok Sabha. We want to raise these issues and you have to look into these things.

I am going to finish my speech in another two minutes, Today we are going to celebrate 50th anniversary of our independence.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence but what will the poor people get form it. All the successive Governments have only been verbose and they have not done much. These Govts. have been more worried about their own chair, they are not worried about the country. During their regine politics has gained primary position and the country have been dragged to the secondary position. You should be careful about it. If the Govt. is unable to bring these three - four reforms then one can not save the country. Today some people spend crores in the elections to come to this House. If we do not change the way elections are fought and if we donot check corruption and prevent criminals from entering the politics, nothing could be done. It is really impossible to save the country.

Mr. Chairman, lastly I would like to say that you have talked about federalism but where is that federalism. We opposes it. Here a Government was formed which was a combination of various parties for different states. All the Chief Ministers came together and were forced to think about the future of the country. Therefore I say that those who talk about these things it is all their imagination this is not true. We are reading in the newspapers about what is wrong and what is right. Some M.Ps. and some Officers have been served notices. The daughter-in-laws of Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister have been served notices about allotment of Petrol Pumps. This is not good.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : I would like to say that all this is due to corruption Government should take steps to check corruption. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that we are on the threshold of the 50th Year of Independence. We have completed eight Five Year Plans and we are about to embark on the Ninth Plan. We have, for the first time, a coalition Government. In which the regional parties are playing a dominant role. All this constitutes a monumental tribute to the talent and wisdom of the great Indian people who have assiduously built, nurtured and strengthened the foundations of our democratic polity.

Our democracy today, if I may say so, is the so-called owner's pride and neighbour's envy. I represent the Congress Party. This Party is extending its support to the Government. In this process, we are facing a number of problems internally within the party. For example, in my State of Assam, our party workers are being subjected to persecution by the party in power and we are supporting and sustaining the Government at the centre although it is one of the 13 parties in the coallition Government. But in spite of all this, why is it that we are extending our support from the Congress Party to this coalition Government ? The Congress is very firmly committed to secularism and however much we deride the concept of secularism as pseudo-secularism and all that, the fact remains that secularism is an essential prerequisites if we have to preserve the unity and integrity of the country. I feel that in the short term we may be facing reverses as a party, as we have done in Punjab and elsewhere but in the long-term our commitment to secularism is bound to be applauded by the people and the short-term reverses, notwithstanding, we are going to triumph, as, at the end of the day, the secular forces must triumph over the sectarian, theocratic forces.

Well, in the North-East and also in the South, to a great extent, we have been able to keep these non-secular forces at bay and we hope to be able to do so in the future. In that process, we are even prepared to accept certain reverses, certain losses in the short-term because we are confident that in the long-run, we are going to triumph. It is against this background that we had heard our venerable Rashtrapathi's *abhibhashan* with rapt attention.

The Address is a document of faith and optimism. It contains prescriptions for growth and stability with justice – social, economic and political. Therefore, I do not want to drag the contents of the Address to avoidable polemics. I would like to concentrate here not on what the Address contains but on certain vital concerns which the Address did not address. For example, there is the phenomenon of spiralling prices. But there is no reference whatsover in the President's Address to this menace of rising prices. We have seen that in June, 1996, the inflation rate was 4.5 per cent. But now, because of abnormal spurt in prices, in the week ending 15th February, the inflation rate has gone up to as high as 7.99 per cent, nearly 8 per cent.

We know that during the period of this Government, there has been an unusual spurt in prices because of certain decisions taken by the Government; decisions like hike in prices of petro-products, hike in prices of wheat, sugar, rice and what have you. This has made life unbearable for our poor people. Even wholesale price index for the week ending 15th February has gone up to 321.5 and it was as low as 302 only in April 1996. This is an alarming situation and this is something that affects the entire population of the country. We are giving all kinds of sops to the share markets, the share brokers, the Indian investors, the foreign investors and CII members and all that, but no respite to the people who are really in the largest number who constitute more than half the population affected by price rise. Not only the people living below the poverty line but also those who are living above the poverty line are also affected. Yet we have made no reference to that. We have given sops to others. But we have not listed out measures that this Government proposes to take to combat the menace of rising prices affecting the poor and the middle class alike.

The other major issue that should have been addressed and was not addressed in the Address was the issue of population control. This is a very basic thing for our country and we find that our population increase is as high as 2.2 to 2.3 per cent whereas our increase in food production is lagging behind the increase in our rate of growth of population. Therefore, very urgent, effective measures have got to be taken to curb the rate of growth of population. But nothing whatsoever has been mentioned here in this Address. This very vital issue is conspicuous by its absence in this Address.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : There is a mention of it.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : It is not about population control measures. Then comes the question of infrastructure like, power, transport, telecommunication, irrigation etc. These are very vital matters. This is the weakest link in our economic development. We have said that we have given counter guarantees to these fast track projects and all that. But what we have not considered in this : How is it that we are going to make up the alarming, the appalling backlog that we have had in the last five years ? When we introduced the policy of liberalisation, we were hoping that everything would be hunky-dory; private investors both from within the country and outside would come running to invest in the sector and our power problem would be solved for ever. So, as many as 200 MoUs were signed soon after liberalisation – MoUs by State Governments, with *Galla* traders, *Kiranawalas* and all kinds of people who knew nothing about power. None of these 200 MoUs materalised in the form of any tangible power projects so far. The first so-called fast track project is Enron. There also, it is getting into one difficultry after the other. I am hoping that with the Dabhol Power Company clearing the hurdles of this project will see the light of day and eventually this would be implemented.

In the case of power, we have gone about things in the wrong way. There is no reference at all to any policy strategy in this matter because ultimately, in the case of power, money is going to come from distribution, from the consumers of power. So long as distribution is not toned up through privatisation or otherwise, this problem can never be solved. All kinds of counter-guarantees or guarantees by the State Governments are artificial props which alone cannot sustain a power project. Therefore, a lot of thinking should be gone

[Shri Iswar Prasanna Hazarika]

into the strategy for a solution of the power crisis. But we find that only a cursory reference has been made to this problem.

And the same thing applies to other infrastructural areas also.

We have Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on Infrastructure. It reveals a very frightening situation of the state of our infrastructure in the country today. Only a very casual reference is made. We do not see any proper strategy coming out of the Government in this area.

Sir, there is a reference in the President's Address to the Treaty with Bangladesh on sharing of Farakka waters. This is a highly laudable step on the part of the Government and I have no quarrel about it. But for the North-East to survive, it is absolutely essential that we have a trade and transit treaty with Bangladesh to provide a corridor connecting the mainland India with the North-Eastern regions. Without that, economy of the North-East is never going to be developed. So, we were hoping that this treaty of sharing of water would be made a precondition to Bangladesh, signing a trade and transit treaty permitting North-Eastern region to send its goods or both ways to and from mainland India and also allowing import and export through Chittagong-Kulna ports along Brahmaputra to the North-East. But no attention to this matter was paid by the Government as the Farakka treaty was entirely a 'give away'. There was no reciprocal obligation imposed on the Bangladesh Government in this Treaty and we have lost a great opportunity. I have my doubts that having given away Farakka water's share to Bangaldesh, whether Bangladesh is ever going to be an agreeable to sign a trade and transit treaty with India. It will be very unfortunate for the North-Eastern part of the country if the transit treaty is not concluded with Bangladesh.

Sir, we find that after liberalization and economic reforms policy, which was introduced by the Government of my party, the regional disparities are getting accentuated. In the plans, one of the cardinal principles was the removal of regional disparities; one of the goals was attainment of balanced economic growth. Now, that has been given a go-bye in the new Economic Policy. This is something very dangerous because this is going to jeopardise the very unity and integrity of this country. When I asked questions in this House, I was told that upto 31st March, 1997 since liberalization, investment intentions recorded through memoranda in the Ministry of Industry were of Rs. 5,88,000 crore. Out of this, all but Rs. 60,000 crore is attributable to 11 relatively richer States in the country. So far as Bihar and the Eastward States were concerned there were hardly any investment intentions recorded. Therefore, the entire growth is going to be concentrated in the 10 or 11 States to the detriment of the Eastern parts of the country.

Then again, when I asked question on public issue of shares, how much capital had been raised by the corporate out of the public issues and how much of it was for companies registered in the North-East, I was told in this House that, about Rs. 30 to 35 crore had been raised annually through public issue of shares after Liberalization But the share of North-East, that is, companies registered in the North-East, is nil. Take, for example, FDI — Foreign Direct investment All foreign direct investment is going towards the richer States with developed infrastructure. Nothing is going to eastern UP, Bihar and Eastward.

So, we may be achieving a growth rate of seven per cent or 6.8 per cent but this growth rate will be something like 13 per cent or 14 per cent in the richer States and minus five or six per cent in the North-East, Bihar and other poorer States.

17.00 hrs.

Therefore, this is going to divide the country into two parts – the richer India and the poorer India. We have enough divisions already; there is going to be another divisions of the poor and the rich regions in this country. Therefore, what is needed, what is absolutely imperative is for the Government to impart or introduce a regional dimension to the new economic policy. There must be balanced growth and therefore effective incentives have got to be given to attract investments to that part of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : We have seen that private investment is not coming forth for the northeast or the poorer States and therefore an exception to this policy must be made in the case of eastern India and northeastern India; that public sector must continue to play a prominent role in accelerating the development process in these States in eastern and northeastern India. If we do not do it, then private sector is not going to come and no development whatsoever is going to take place.

I do not have time, but I must seek your indulgence to draw the attention of the House to one very basic thing as far as Assam is concerned and that is about the gas reserves. We have been flaring gas wantonly, ruthlessly over the last thirty years. Everyday we are flaring gas which is valued at Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 lakh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everyday ?

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Yes Sir. And we have been doing it for thirty years. This is a waste of national wealth. At the same time we are depriving the region of the benefits that could accrue from industries by exploiting and harnessing the gas that is being flared up. What is happening is that gas is being flared up on the one side; on the other side the Namrup plant of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation is on the verge of being closed down because of the inability of the ONGC and the Oil India Ltd. to supply adequate quantity of gas. Similarly, Assam State Electricity Board's power stations in Namrup and Lakua are lying idle. On the one hand we are thinking of new power projects; on the other hand the existing projects are lying idle. Their capacity utilisation is as low as 30 to 40 per cent because of shortage of gas supplied by these companies. They have not been able to supply the gas because they have to invest something for compressors and certain other equipment to collect the

gas and transport it. The Government of India is not permitting even this small investment to be done which may come to Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 crore and because of that we have lost hundreds of crores of rupees worth of gas. We had a proposal approved for setting up a gas cracker for producing three lakh tonnes of ethylene. That gas cracker is also hanging fire mainly on the issue of gas. On the one hand gas is being flared up; but on the other, new industries are not allowed to come up and the existing industries are on the verge of being closed down because of non-supply or inadequate supply of gas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You raised some very vital points. But the time is getting over. I must request you to conclude.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : I will conclude with just one point. We have a very serious law and order situation prevailing today in the northeast. To tackle that situation, the Government of India and the State Government jointly are supposed to have installed what is called the Unified Command Structure. This is a three tier structure. On the top is the highest tier which is presided over by the Chief Secretary. It should have been presided over by the Chief Minister as in the case of Jammu and Kashimir. But, for reasons best known to our Chief Minister, he has put the Chief Secretary as the head. The second tier is the operational tier headed by a Lt. General. This is the military part of the tier

The third tier is at the district level, presided over by the Commissioner of the Division and it includes Major-Generals and Brigadiers and so on.

This command structure has been introduced to tackle the menace of terrorism in the area. But the whole idea behind the structure was that there would be cooperation among the Army, the Central paramilitary forces and the local police and that they would work in tandem, in harmony and in coopertion so that the local police would give the right feedback to the Army which is from outside and based on that feedback, based on their familiarity of the terrain and all that the army would be able to tackle the problem of insurgency effectively. But we find that the kind of full cooperation is not forthcoming. The police is not fully cooperating. In the Cabinet itself, in the Government of Assam, there are strong differences.....*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not think that it is right to bring in State matters. That is purely a State subject. I think, this is not a remark that you can make.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : I withdraw that part of it. But my apprehension is.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, that part may please be expunged.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : My apprehension is that the good name of our Army, of our *jawans* and of our Central Forces is likely to be tarnished if they fail in their efforts to tackle insurgency because of lack of adequate coopertion from the local Governement and from the local police forces. Therefore, there is a need for the Centre to take greater interest in the functioning of the unified command structure.

The State Government is also unable to provide the necessary resources to the Army because of shortage of funds. The Government has demanded Rs. 342 crore for insurgency related, security related expenditure to be reimbursed by the Central Government because this relates to fighting insurgency, that is fighting for the defence of the domain. Therefore, the State should be reimbursed. Now, this Government is dragging its feet, in giving the reimbursement. As a result, the State is unable to give adequate resources to the Army to fight insurgency. The Centre should release this amount without further delay.

Finally, I thank you again for your indulgence and with these few words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

DR. ARVIND SHARMA (Sonepat) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, at the outset I would to like to thank you that you have given me a chance to speak on this occasion.

I support the President's Address which was given in the joint sittings of both the Houses. The Presidents' Address has mentioned drinking water, education, Housing, employment and public distribution system. Unless there is co-operation between Union Govt. and State Govt.'s these schemes can not be properly implemented. Cooperation between Union Government and State Govt. is very important. I have been elected from Sonepat Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana. About 200-250 villages in this area are facing acute shortage of drinking water for the last 30 years. Our Hon. Finance Minister have allocated funds for drinking water in the Budget. But unless and until State Govt. honestly tries to find the problem of these villages, only then this problem which has been there for last 30 years will be solved. Our Mothers-sisters carry water over their heads from 5-6 kms. If you look at them then you will find they have lost their hair.

Recently a Chief Ministers' conference was organised where it was considered to give more power to the state Govts. This is correct, State Govts. should be given more powers. Look at Haryana. Haryana have introduced prohibition in the state. Prohibition is very good but do you agree or any member can say that it is being properly implemented in the state. State Government is making utmost efforts, but they cannot become successful because in other states around Haryana there is no prohibition. When prohibition is not there in other states than how can it be successfully implemented in Haryana, Haryana Govt. have stated they suffer losses to the tune of about 1000 to 1500 crores of Rupees. I can assure you that this loss is much more. The entire Govt. mechinery is involved in implementing prohibition.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Arvindji, this is a state subject. Whether Haryana Govt. implements prohibition or not is immaterial here.

(Interruptions)

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*Not Recorded

[English]

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Sir, Please excuse me.

[Translation]

If Haryana does not impose prohibition and does not incur loss of revenue as a result thereof, the entire revenue earned this could have been utilised to waive electricity and water charges of farmers. Further, we could provide electricity for them and we could also instal power plants.

[English]

There are so many schemes.

[Translation]

We could give old age pension. If the Central Government releases the funds and the State does not utilise it properly, it would be of no help. Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I mean to say is that the State Government should utilise the funds meant for the welfare of the poor.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not proper to say that the State Government is wasting the money. The Senior State leaders can not be criticised here. In fact, you can not criticise anybody in this House.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : So long as no check is exercised on the state Government by setting up high-power committees, this trend will continue.

I am talking about all the states here.

Mr. Chairman, so far as education is concerned, we now very well as to how many girls manage to get higher education after taking admission in primary classes. I think that the average of such girls is below two percent. Secondly, it would be better if we concentrate more on the vocational training and technical education. It would be a better idea to provide more loans to the youth. We should also think about the child labour practice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to raise the matter of sugarcane growers of Haryana. The Presidential Address is broadly, pro-farmer and pro-poor. However there are also same other issues, for example, a licence for sugar mill was issed for my region Gohana on 6th December, 1993, but no Government paid any attention towards it. Ultimately that licence expired on 6th December, 1996. The Haryana Government has now requested for the extension of the validity of this licence. The Central Government should show same consideration for such states which do not have very sound economic position. It would be appreciable if the Central Government also gives same financial assistance for setting up a sugar mill. Even since Haryana has been formed, there is only one sugar mill in Sonepat which has a crushing capacity of 12500 thousand quintals. For the last 30 years, only one sugar Mill has been operating, whereas the production has gone up by at least seven to eight times. I urge upon the Government to pay attention towards this matter also. The Central Government should provide some assistance for the sugar mills so that the state governments may utilise it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as employment opportunities are concerned, on one hand, we talk about the rights of the poor and on the other hand, we talk about snatching their jobs. Now you will again ask me not to level allegations on the Government. But you can see for yourself that the Municipal Committee workers are on strike in Haryana for the last two months and still the matter has not been resolved. The Haryana Government has the support of the Bhartiya Janata Party and my Colleague from B.J.P. Shri Mangal Ram Premi has also written to the state government that the matter should be resolved as soon as possible. About 24000 Municipality workers are on strike from 18.12.96 and they are demanding that their salaries should be given from the Government treasury. The Haryana Government is not paying any attention towards them at all two leaders – Shri Puran Chandra and Shri Sher Singh are sitting on a dharna in support of these demands. Their health is deteriorating. If anything untoward happens to them, the workers throughout the state would go on strike. Hence, the Haryana Government should pay attention towards this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a point to be raised here.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Sir, on the one hand, we talk about providing employment and on the other hand, we are snatching their jobs.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please raise this matter in the State Assembly.

(Interruptions)

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Sir, the matter will be resolved only if the Central Government intervenes of .....*(interruptions)* Peoples from Balmiki Community all working there. The Safai Karmchari are working there .....*(interruptions)* Sir, it is certainly a matter pertaining to the State Government but the Central Government should pay attention towards it.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Arvindji, this debate is being held on the Presidential Address. The strike of minicipal committee workers is not the main issue here.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Health programmes are not being run properly. So long as incentives are not given to the doctors practising in villages, the situation will not improve. The Doctors do not want to serve in villages. I would request the Government to give more incentives to the doctors station in villages. I fully support the Presidential Address delivered in the joint session of both the Houses. The Prime Minister deserves to be congratulated for this pro-poor approach. This concern for the poor is genuine only such persons can care for the well - being of the poor who are whole heartedly committed to this cause. The Prime Minister and the United Front Government deserve to be praised. They are giving utmost attention to the poor farmers.

Once again, I would request the Central Government to implement the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission as soon as possible because this is a matter pertaining to the employees. Their salaries are not sufficient enough for the subsistance of their families in the rising inflation. Hence I urge upon the Government to implement the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission as soon as possible. With these words. I support the Motion of thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the President's Address is being discussed here, I rise to oppose the Motion. I would be very brief.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to request the Hon'ble Members that time is very limited several members are yet to speak. I would request them to observe the time limit of ten minutes each.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Address is nothing but a pack of lies and a misleading document meant to beguile the poor people of the country. Ever since the United Front Government has come to power, the law and order situation has been deteriorating constantly and especially in the states under the President's Rule. The nation is incurring heavy financial losses. As the Congress Members and their leader, Shri Narasimha Rao had claimed that his party would continue giving support to this Government and help it run for full five years. They would help the Government run as lay as they please. At this, Shri Deve Gowda replied that so long as they continue giving their support, the corrupt would not be sent to jails. This is the condition and the understanding on which this Government is running, otherwise they would have pulled the rug from under the feet of the Government long ago. The Congress is continuing its support on this issue of corruption.

The problems of Farmers have not been mentioned in the budget. At times, power is not made available in the villages of Uttar Pradesh for one month at a stretch. Recently, the crop of paddy, sugarcane and wheat has been destroyed, Uttar Pradesh is presently under the President's Rule,. Farmers are very troubled. Nobody is there to procure their sugarcane. The practice of issuance of slips to the farmers by the mills is not a good system. As on today not even one-fourth of the total supply of sugarcane supposed to have been made by now has reached the mills so far. No policy has been laid down in this regard as to had the payment will be made to the farmers. First, they issue orders for making direct payments to the famers and then they make amendments therein. Thereafter, they propose that the payment would be made through banks and now again, they are favouring direct payment system consequently, the mill-owners are having their own way. We have had a good yield of potato in Uttar Pradesh this year, however there is no space in the cold storages to store them. Potato is piling up in the fields but nobody is there to pick it up. It is not going to cover even the production costs. The Governor of U.P. is not concerned about the public and the farmers. He is more concerned about the location of holding the programmes. He is busy in making arrangements for his own welcome ceremonies. His only worry is as to where the officers are to be posted so that they continue holding good programmes for him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are well aware that during the last Lok Sabha term not a single day passed when the present leader of the House and the Railway Minister did not raise the issue of suppression of dalits. However, after having joined the Government, he has forgotten all that. So many murders are being committed in Uttar Pradesh but the leader of the House has not taken any action against those who have committed these atrocities. Instead, the provisions of the relevant law are being misused. Under the protection of the Governor, such people are being falsely implicated and these they make tall claims about social equality and justice. They are registering false case against Harijans under certain sections. Only last week, my colleagues Shri Sukh Lal Kushwaha had raised the matter of social injustice being done to dalits in his speech. I listened to his whole speech. He was right but who is responsible for all this ? The four *varnas* of Indian society – Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and shudras have been mentioned but such a situation has never ever prevailed in our country. We have had a system of equality. There were several communities and castes in our country. However no discrimination was even observed – There are several religions and hence the ways of offering prayers also vary but we have had no struggles on the issues of caste or community. The tribals do not encourage such poisonores sentiments. If this sort of hatred were there in our society, Kshatranti Mira Bai would not have accepted sant Ravidas as her spiritual mentor, Valmiki Ramayana would not be worshipped, Veda or Parashar would not be worshipped and in South, Shabari Mata would not have worshipped. Such discriminations was never witnessed on the caste issue. Ever since the country has become independent some people in our country are misleading others by raising the issue of casteism. These people criticise us by calling us communalists, whereas they themselves have divided the society by instigating and encouraging casteism. As a result, mass murders are being committed in Meerut, Hamirpur, Mirzapur. A violent dance of death and destruction is going on not only in Bihar but also throughout Uttar Pradesh. Earlier such incidents used to occur in Bihar but now the number of such incidents has been rising in Uttar Pradesh. Nobody is interested in the area of development. Valuable mineral resources such as coal, gold, uranium are produced in Bihar. Electricity poles have been erected wiring has been done, bulbs have been provided but there is no power. Bihar is slowly becoming another Somalia. No discussion is ever undertaken about the development of the area. Their only business is to level allegations of communalism on the B.J.P.

I was listening very intently to the speeches made by a number of my friends on the President's Address. Every other day, they discuss the Babri Masjid issue. I would like to put this equestion to those very friends. There is no such mention in the Quran or the Hadees. Instead, it is laid down in the holy book that mosque can not be constructed in the name of any person. If such a mosque is ever constructed, the prayers of fered therein writ be acceptable to god. This is what the Hadees and the Quran says. My point is that Babar was not the prophet or god. He was just an ordinary king and for us, he was a foreign invader. When the Quran says that mosque can not be constructed in the name of a particular person. How could Babri Masjid have been constructed in Ayodhya at that spot ? Mosque could surely have been constructed there but is could not have been named Babri Masjid. Throughout the world, no mosque has ever been constructed in the name of any person. In the Tenth Lok Sabha, uptill now, I have been hearing this refrain

[Shri Vinay Katiyar]

only that Babri Masjid has been demolished. Has any dicisions been taken in this regard ? If Babri Masjid is connected with name of Babar, this surely is an injustice to the teachings of the Hedees and the Quran. I have come to know that yesterday a film 'Raam Ke naam par' was talecast on Doordarshan which was regarding Ayodhya. I was travelling at that time. This case is sub-judice. Hence, I fail to understand as to why this film was telecast. What was the reasons therefor ? The case is sub-judice. There is no mention in the Presidents Address about finding a solution to the Ram Janambhoomi Babri Masjid Controversy. A Bill regarding religious places was moved in the Tenth Lok Sabha. The B.J.P. had opposed that Bill but even then the Government managed to make it a law, taking advantage of its majority in the House. Coincidentally, you are in power today. So why don't you enforce the law pertaining to religious places ? If the Government had enforced that legislation, the Kashi-Mathura Problem would have been solved automatically. The Government succeeded in making the law but afterwards. When it went through it thoroughly it came to realise that it had faltered somewhere. That is why, the Government does not have the courage to enforce it. So, how long would you continue to mislead the nation ?

Barbed wire fencing on Indo-Pak border is another much discussed proposal. The Central Government has allocated budget for it. The Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended the barbed wire fencing on the Indo-Pak border whereas the Ministry of Defence is against it. Why is that Ministry against this proposal ? Why is the Defence Minister issuing such statements ? The Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs agree that fencing should be done whereas the Defence Minister is aginst it. What would be the position of Defence in such a country where the Defence Minister makes such statement under pressure or with a view to garner more votes or when he can bow so easily. This shows the lack of co-ordination between the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister, the Minister of External Affairs and the Defence Minister, the Minister of External Affairs and the Home Minister. This matter should be looked into. This is why terrorism is gaining ground in our country.

While observing the time limit, I would like to request that the sneaking of Bangladesh refugees into India should not be linked with religion, rather it should be viewed as a national issue. Recently, a Private Member's Bill was moved in the House and this issue was discussed at that time. The entire Eastern region is facing much more formidable problem than the Kashmir problem. Tripura is being rocked by such struggles day in and day out. Is there anybody to get to the bottom of the problem ? The Prime Minister goes on the tour of Eastern region and comes back after making the announcement that this much money is being released or these schemes are being formulated but sor far nothing has been done for this region. Only announcements have been made.

The United Front Government was formed and Shri Deve Gowda became the Prime Minister. He toured Uttar Pradesh and made several announcements there. There is a spinning mill at Akbarpur in my constituency, Faizabad. I attended a public meeting there. Two Union Ministers had made this announcement there that this spinning mill would be re-started but nothing concrete has been done so far. The labourers are dying of starvation there. They had made announcements about construction of a Bridge, however no such plans were ever sanctioned. I am not aware as to what action was taken after the announcements. In this way, I fail to understand where this Government is headed for. They talk about communalism. Take the case of Chhindwara and Nagaur. In 1977, Smt. Indira Gandhi and all other Congress members had lost all the seats in the Hindi speaking belt except these two seats which proved to be unconquerable Congress strongholds. You have always criticised us for being communalists and you are continuing on the same lines even today. But what has happened is that today we have been successful in winning these two seats also. I fail to understand who are the communalists – those who wish to divide the society by encouraging casteism or those who wish to unite the country. This is why, I say that the interests of the poor and the rural areas have been totally over-looked in the present policy of the Union Government and in the Presidential Address and this kind of negligent attitude *premepts* one to oppose the Motion of Thanks on the Presidents Address. I thank you for having given me the chance to speak.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I listened to the President's speech very attentively also read it very carefully. I am not opposing the thought underlined therein but I fail to understand its meaning. I feel that those who have drafted the President's speech earlier have worked at it this time also and such words have been used therein that nobody can derive any clear meaning out of it.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Are you supporting the Motion or opposing it ?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : You will come to know shortly.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : We are not able to understand your speech.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : In this speech, tall claims have been made about secularism, the well-being of dalits, backward classes and minorities, social justice and secularism but no clear-cut mention has been made about the measures undertaken. For the welfare of dalits, Minorities and backward classes. Secularism has been mentioned prominently in the beginning of the Address. But I would like to ask the United Front members that Uttar Pradesh is under their rule. Secularism and social justice means – justice for all. Muslims comprise 20% of the total population in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, 600 policemen have been recruited there and only 12 people belonging to minority community have been recruited which means only 2 percent muslims have been accomodated. Is this the proof of their so-called secularism. The members of United Front should pose this query to their own conscience as to whether this is Secularism. Ever Since the Britishers have left this country, this average of two

percent has been maintained in the name of secularism. It seems as if a limit has been imposed which can not be crossed and if anybody tries to cross it, he will meet this doom. Further, I would Speak on the President's Address as there is no time to digress from the main subject. Several schemes have been mentioned and I feel that they have been mentioned with great pride even when the entire money falls into the hands of the corrupt. Whether the poor children are deriving the benefits of the Mid-day meal scheme or the funds being misappropriated by Governement officials and employees, is very well known. Everybody knows that 90 percent of the funds meant for Adult Education and National Literacy Mission are going to the corrupt and nobody else is being benefited by it. At least, I have never came across such a person who might have become literate though National Literacy Mission. Leave aside being educated no person has even become literacy despite billions of rupees of this country being wasted in the name of Adult education. They themselves know that the money is being packeted by the officers and the employees but even then, they are insisting on continuing this scheme.It seems they are apprehensive that if these schemes are withdrawn, those who had initiated them might withdraw their support I don't know why billions of rupees are being wasted deliberately and on top of that they have stated with great pride in this Address that these schemes are being continued.

As I have stated earlier that throughout the Presidential Address, the minorities have been mentioned again and again but nowhere it has been stated as to what steps the Government propose to take for the welfare of minorities and what steps are being taken at present regarding the womens' Reservation Bill presently lying pending in this august House, I would like to state without any hesitation and very clearly that it was the Simon Commission which initiated the process of providing protection to Humanity. Thereafter, this continued upto the Mandal Commission. Now whatever might have been stated by the Simon Commission, Kaka Sahib Kalelkar Commission or the Mandal Commission, our old Manuwadi Civilisation is very much alive. Now they wish to take away everything through reservation for women. It does not matter if these women are from dalit community, backward classes or any other classes. That is why I had opposed this proposal earlier and I still oppose it. Hence, I can not support the Motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Various points have also been made in this speech ....(*Interruptions*). I am against all sorts of Political reservation. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was in favour of reservation but he too was against political reservation.I demand that political reservation provided in Panchayats, Lok Sabha and Legislative Assmblies should be done away with. Dalits won't benefit from political reservation. They surely are benefited by reservation in Government jobs and such reservation should be continued...(*Interrruptions*)

A lot has been said on the foreign policy in this Address. Afghanistan issue has also been discussed and I would also like to state that Afghanistan had helped us during the Freedom struggle. Those who managed to escape from the clutches of Britishers used to seek refuge in Afghanistan but no Government has ever tried to get to the bottom of the Afghanistan issue in order to find out the real position. Our policy regarding Afghanistan was wrong. When Russia forcibly occupied the territory of Afghanistan, our Government which claimed to be a flag bearer of democracy, supported the Russian occupation. In doing so, it failed to force Russia, which was one of the big powers of the world at one time would not have been satisfied after occupation of Afghanistan and it could easily have advanced towards Pakistan and then to India also. The History tells us that all the invaders took the Afghanistan route and Khaibar pass to invade our country. It was a mistake on our part to support Russian occupation of Afghanistan.....*(Interruptions)* You had taken the right step.

Hence I feel that whatever has been stated in the Presidential Address regarding the foreign policy, is not appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar has spoken at length on the issue of communalism in this House. I would like to clarify here that communalism and Secularism are the much abused terms. The B.J.P. Members use bitter articulations which are disliked or dubbed as communal by other members. Shri Sharad Pawar is not present in the House at present. I would like to ask him as to who was in power and under whose directions, the police killed thousands of people in Mumbai on 6th December and 7th January?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of houses were burnt to ashes. Lakhs of people were rendered homeless. Thousands and lakhs of people originally from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were forced to leave Mumbai. Who was in power at that time? Which communal party was in power? Shri Sharad Pawar has not mentioned all this in his speech, whereas he should., have done so. Who was in power at that time ? Why has not he mentioned any names? I would like to ask him as to who was ruling the state at the time when people were massacred in Mumbai and that too under police protection. At that time some frustrated persons planted bombs in Mumbai and caused bomb explosion. According to the Constitution of India, everyone is equal before the law. According to the Constitution, no discrimination is to be made on the basis of caste. Earlier, under the Manu System, discriminations were made on the basis of caste, however there is no such discrimination now. But even then, in Mumbai, no action has been taken against those who murdered several people, looted lakhs of rupees, burnt to ashes houses with crores of rupees. In the bomb explosion case, 250 people were arrested and imprisoned under TADA.

Mr. Chairman,Sir, even now some people are in prison under TADA. The real 35 culprits who should have been imprisoned under TADA are safely stationed in Dubai and elsewhere outside the country, but the innocent are still languishing in prisons under TADA. The hearings in TADA cases have been going on for last four years and 3500 witnesses are to be examined in total. So, far, only 200 witnesses have been examined. How many years whould it

[Shri Iliyas Azmi]

take to complete the process of recording their evidences of all 3500 persons and how long would these people continue to languish in Jails? Those who have money, gone to the Supreme Court and get the bail. Their cases are also dismissed eventually. A poor person cannot move the Supreme Court. By the time 3200 witnesses are examined many of them will die. This Government calls itself a Secular Government and custodian of justice. When TADA has been abolished, why are those people still imprisoned and why are they still lenguishing in jails?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I could like to express my views on a legislation pertaining to cow-slaughter moved by a Senior colleague, Shri K.L. Sharma. As all of you are aware, I am not against it.I am in its favour and I support it. The law pertaining to cow-slaughter should not only be implemented in our country, rather it should be enforced throughout the world. If you agree with its provisions and feel that cow-slaughter is posing a threat to humanity, why should we not strive for implementation of this law all over the world in order to save humanity. First of all, we should implement it in our own country and thereof the Government of India should put this proposal to other countries that Cow-slaughter should be banned. I am in favour of banning cow-slaughter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir the I.A.S. system in solely responsible for all the evils prevalent in our system. Whether it is the case of corruptions, atrocities, social injustice, or looting the country, I.A.S. system in the root of all evils. The Britishers had founded the I.C.S. system. They did not have any such system in England and they still don't have it. So long as this system is not done away with the problems being faced in the country can not be solved instead, we should have such a system in our country under which every person should just be recruited to the post of clerk and on the basis of his dedication, hard work and integrity,he should be promoted gradually to the post of Cabinet Secretary. The Policemen should also be recruited just at the lower levels and then on the basis of his hard work, integrity and dedications, he should be promoted to the post of D.G.P if such a person shows laxity and indulges in corrupt practices after reaching that position or his integrity comes under doubt, he should be reverted even if he has to be reverted from the post of S.P. to the post of constable. So long as such a system in not brought into force, our problems will not be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite my personal experience one of my friends is an IAS officer in Lucknow. When I went to meet him, he said that I might advocate and support the constitutions of this country, but there were many loopholes and shortcomings therein. I asked him to clarify his statement. He said that after passing this IAS exam, he has been handed over an authoritative position for life time. Now he may indulge in corrupt practices or commit any number of crimes but the representative of 12 lakh people has to come to get his work done. This is the basic problem with this system. So long as the Government does not consider this issue seriously, this country would be deprived of a better system. If not today, but tomorrow this House will have to ponder over this issue and obolish the I.A.S , I.P.S. and I.F.S. system. Any person desirous of joining Government service will have to join clerical cadre and then he will be promoted fraduelly to the post of Cabinet Secretary. similarly, policemen will be recruited as constables and then they will be promoted to higher post of D.G.P. and only then there will be an improvement in the system of this country. How long would we continue to carry on with this system handed over by the Britshers ? Whether we will continue with the system initiated by Britshers' ancestors? I feel that so long as the ruling party or the majority of members do not consider this matter seriously there can be not progress in the country. When the majority will come to their senses, they will be constrained to think on these lines. I want that such a provision should be made in the constitution so that this system is abolished. The persons who work with devotion, sincerity and dedication should be promoted to the highest post and incapable officers should not be promoted. The incapable should be recalled and demoted. If we evolved this system, 90 per cent evils will be eliminated. God has not made this country poor. He has made our country, as one of the riches country in the world. We have made it poor because of our wrong deeds. We ask for drinking water. There is no shortage. If there is any shortcoming, it is in ourselves, in our leaders, in our things. There is lack of dedication and honesty and in our communalism and casteism. There are shortcomings in all these things, We should look into these regard. I will once again say that it would be better for the country to do away with IAS system at the earliest. I will not take much time. I have decided not to take time, speak without the will of chair. I have never taken more time than allotted to me. I conclude my speech.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while listening to the debate, one has the impression that there is a palanquin, in which 14 persons have been seated, while two persons are carrying it. These two persons are abusing. Everybody is criticising the Government, whether he is a Congress, C.P.M, B.J.P. or C.P.i. member. Nobody is praising the Government. The persons sitting therein are confident that except God nobody can unseated them. You do whatever you like. You may withdraw your support, my Government will not fall. It is the picture before us. By the grace of God our country is functioning very well, without any Government, without any Prime Minister. If the spelling of United Front is interchanged, it will become untidy. There is no co-ordination in the Government. Cabinet is not responsible to any act. 70 horses are racing here and there. And we are saying that Government are running .....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : To beat ones own trump.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Yes, there is no policy worth the name. Its constituents are working at cross purposes. There was a debate in the morning on U.P. Shri Indrajit Gupta is a seniormost member of the House. We respect him. A Governor has said his (Gupta) word does not carry any weight. Prime Minister says he is doing a good job. This is the state of the Government. What can I say?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the course of President's address, although he is respected and an old person, yet he was not reading the factual facts. He must had been feeling unhappy while reading it. But it was his compulsion. I feel sorry for him. I respect him, but we are speaking here to oppose his address. This Government are making assurance but are in the habit of going back upon his word's. Just now he was saying about the reservation to the women. Prime Minister has given an assurance that he will provide reservation to women not only in Parliament, assembly but also in services. He had promised a lot, but he was not aware of the fact that women will ask for these things. Thereafter he is not facing us. It is not a new thing. Everytime he makes an announcement but does not fulfil it. It is the quality of our Prime Minister that he think that as he forget about them everyone else will also forget them. Sometime he succeeded in his efforts. But in our case, he is in fix. He will have to honour his promise.

The Prime Minister had announced from the rampart of the Red Fort that there is no hitch in the formation of Uttarakhand. But after the defeat in the U.P. elections, he has forgotten about Uttarakhand. He has lowered the prestige of his post that he had forget the promises he had made from the rampart of the Red Fort. When the Prime Minister was so kind to announce the formation of Uttarakhand, what sin did we commit that he forget about Vananchal, the agitation for which had been going on for a long time. Our agitation is fifty years old. Almost all the leaders from there had left it. The people of this area have left them because they had not fulfil their promises. Therefore Congress, Janta Dal etc. had been lost from that area. Next time you will also lose from Bihar. The Chief Minister of Bihar said he is 'Avtar' of Krishna. His big cut-outs had been erected in various places. He was made Abhimanyu from Krishna i.e. he has become from God to man. Mr, Chairman, Sir, you might has read the story. Nobody can kill Krishan but Abhimanyu has to die, the sooner the better. The fate of their Government is bleak. They had lost in Punjab, Rajasthan, Chindwara....(*Interruptions*) They had said several times that we will be lost in Mumbai, Maharashtra.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, better talk about their defeat instead of their death.

PROF. RITA VERMA : May God give them a long life. Why should I ask for their death. But it is not fair to compare oneself with Abhimanyu. They must have read the stories of Mahabharat. They must undergo their punishment. As you sow so shall you reap.

Look at the other announcement made by Shri Deve Gowada Ji. He frequently rushed to U.P., prior to the election. But he never visited the state. Now he starts sleeping, if one talks about U.P. He used to visit U.P. and make announcement that power and water will be supplied to farmers at subsidised rates. What happened to these announcements? He has not given any concession to poor farmers in his budget. There is a coalition Government of Akali-BJP in Punjab. We have proved that you merely make announcement for votes, thereafter donot honour them. Although we did not make loud promises, but we have provided free power. water to farmers. See for yourself, the differences. Nobody now pay any attention, towards P.M.'s announcement. He does not remember his announcements. It is our sleeping Government, which is operating while sleeping. What else you want to hear about this Government.

I want to tell an incident about Minister of Water Resources. You might have been there in todays Question hour. He had mentioned that the condition of Bangladesh is very poor. Therefore one has to sacrifice one's nation interest. Our Minister has said it. It is as if a Minister of Bangladesh government was answering the reply. He had sidetraded the interest of our 22 crores population to two crores population of Bangladesh. He had overlooked the miserable condition of our farmers. Our Minister could not see the condition of our farmers asking for water but had advocated the case of farmers of Bangladesh. I had asked a supplementary question to him about the falling level of water in Vananchal area, which is otherwise rich in minerals. It is so rich in minerals that it fulfil the requirement of entire country. He replied that there is no water in that area, hence the question of water level did not arise and therefore the question of water preservation did not arise. He had also said in another reply but if people of an area is dieing without water, let them die, what can government do therein. If there is no water, how can we bring it. Your Cabinet Minister's priority was this that if one is dieing he had to die. We did not get vote from that area, therefore we will not provide assistance to them, let them die. It is their policy.

There are many Ministers who had crossed to other side. Previously they were with us. But they have learnt the working of previous Government very well. You might remember that in 1991, at the time of the Shri Bal Ram Jhakhar, there was a rice scam. On the same time, at that time, firstly rice was exported. Our Partys member, Shri Madan Lal Khurana had unearthed this scam. He had asked for a calling attention in this regard and a long discussion was held. There was a plenty of rice in the country. Mr. Jena, you might had participated in that discussion. Had you, remembered? There was surplus rice and the Government had exported it at very low prices. Thereafter there was a shortage of rice in the domestic market and people had to face many difficulties. The Government had, then, imported rice at high rates. At that time you people had attacked Sh. Bal Ram Jhakhar. Although, our party member, Shri Madan Lal Khurana had unearthed this scam. The present Minister of Agriculture had learnt a lot from that scam.

[English]

History is repeating itself.

[Translation]

Firstly scam took place in the export of rice followed by a scam in the import of sugar and now wheat scam had taken place. I do not know what scam will take place afterward. If election does not take place in near future, another scam might take place.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we are almost nearing six o'clock, There are still eight to ten more speakers.

If it is the desire of the House, we can extend the time of the House up to seven o'clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House has been extended up to seven o'clock.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : I will wind up my speech very soon.

How serious are this Government about the security of our country? They have already expressed their views on Kashmir. On the pretext of minor adjustment, they have agreed to give 1/3 area of Kashmir to Pakistan and announced this from a foreign country. How much they are serious about the defence of our nations security, you can see? These people came to power on the slogan of transparency. But now the People of this country have seen within a span of 9-10 months, how much transparency is there in their working. They are allergic to judicial system. It is true that you can say that there are cases against some of our leaders also. We are not afraid of judicial activism. We welcome enquiry against any of us. But why are you afraid of enquiry? You are talking of limiting the rights of judges. We welcome to enquiry so as clear any misgivings.

18.00 hrs.

But why are you, the Prime Minister are afraid of enquiry. We believe that our judiciary is impartial and competent. If on this ground you want to clip the wings of judiciary, we shall not allow them to do so, because it will be a betrayal of the people of this country.

I want to quote from the Presidential Address. It has been stated therein that the Government propose to formulate a national policy for rehabilitating and resitting people displaced due to irrigation management and big irrigation projects. I was just saying that the people who had left Congress had adopted Congress culture. Congress had ruled this country for fifty years but could not formulate any policy for the displaced persons. They are saying that it is Government for dalits, poor but the Government is yet to formulate the policy for the displaced people. I am elected from coal area which is, an industrial area but we are not sure what to raise here, because the government had not so far formulated any policy to identify the displaced people. How they will get the justice. It is like a pimple grown on an ulcer. They do not have commitment for poor, displaced persons and to add salt to injury we have the economic policy also.

A lady member was saying that it is a good budget. She said it is good for middle class because coffee and biscuits have been made cheaper. I said but 'dal-roti' will become costlier. I have been a lecturer of History. I used to study the French revolution. Madam Merry Antony had said if you cannot afford bread, why did not you eat cake. They are also saying same thing. It is the state of Government which claims to be of poor people.

Jenaji when you were in opposition, we had said our voice for sickness of public sector units. I had said and also saying today that Hindustan Steel Construction Ltd. (HSCL) has become sick due to wrong Government 's policy and is on the verge of closure. I had lead the 7000 workers of this unit and we had fought for their rights. There are Janata Dal Government at the Centre and state level. These Governments have beaten us and jailed us. I had been jailed for ten days.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Jenaji can not do like this.

PROF. RITA VERMA : There is a Janata Dal Government in the State. The story of HSCL is not a new one. New budget will be a last step to discourage indigenous industry. Last year you had lowered the custom duty on cooking coal. This year you had reduced the custom duty on cooking coal, non-cooking coal and coal with the higher ash contents, but had not provided any relief in the excise duty. You want that coal industry should be closed down and go in the private hands. You want privatisation of all industries. That is why I am saying that you are following policies of Congress. We have good loving relation with Italy. That is why you have forced project and development Indian company to become sick, in order to help Snem Progiti. We do appreciate these relations with Italy. You are ready to harm public sector company in order to help contractors.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is said that there are no guidelines for infrastructure. A 1000 M.W. project of DVC was to be set up at Methan right Bank for which O.E.L.F. of Japan was ready to provide loan. But your department of economics .....*(Interruptions)* Listen Mr. Jena D.V.C. wants to work, O.E.C.F. was ready to provide loan. Mr. Jena, please listen to our sorrows...*(interruptions)* D.V.C. wanted to take up this project. O.E.C.F. was ready to provide loan. Ministry of Power had cleared this project. It was included in the Ninth Plan, but Department of Economic Affairs did not cared. The representative of the Japanese Company had indeed visited India, but left for Japan without visiting the site. There is acute shortage of power in our area. The people of Bangal, Bihar are agitated in this regard. The project could not be stated because department of Economic Affairs had not cared in this regard. 1000 M.W. capacity projects which was to be set up at pithead, could not be started due to neglect of these people. I have many tales to tell but now I will try to complete my speech.

During the regime of last Government, then was a tumult in the House over Enron issue. I was a member of Stading Committee on Energy and Shri Murli Deora of Congress was its Chairman. The sub-committee of this committee in its unanimous report has recommended that no counter guarantee to any company be given in future. Mr. Jena, you also favoured this point. On the other hand, the Presidential Address states that all those projects which have not been given counter guarantee so far, will now be given counter guarantee, you have changed so much. Now you are a ruling party member. That shows the wide gulf between the percept and practice of the Government. I am not concerned with the decision taken by the Maharashtra State Government. I am addressing the Union Government. In the Standing Committee report it was said that the counter guarantee which was given this fault cannot be rectified now. But except those two companies, in future no counter guarantee will be given. You had also opposed in this regard. Don't forget it, Now your Government is doing opposite to it and counter guarantee are being given.It is the character of your Government.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : What was your role in Enron issue?

PROF. RITA VERMA : We have made improvement in Enron deal. Please don't take my time I will debate with you on this subject later on. Let me speak.

At page 11 of President Address, you have appreciated yourself. I will read it. At page 11, para 33, it is written that:-

> "Our nuclear science and technology have achieved noteworthy progress in harnessing nuclear energy for electricity generation with the reaching of criticality of the Kamini reactor at Kalpakkam...."

It is a very long paragraph. I will not read it fully, But you have appreciated yourself. I will now read two lines from the report of Standing Committee of Energy. Last year, the Government had to allocate Rs. 2098.60 crores for department of Atomic Energy. But we had provided only Rs. 1451 crore....(*Interruptions*) You had not provided Rs. 695 crore.

Even then, you are appreciating yourself. I want to read two lines of this report :-

[English]

> "However, due to uncertainty regarding availability of funds, construction of these projects could not be taken up and it has been stated that only scrap value of the items procured through advance action at great expense can now be salvaged."

[Translation]

They have helped so much and allocated so little amount that our leaders had builts up this structure but this Government is selling it as scrap. They are allocating the budget. The Kamini reactor at Kalpakkam has been started not by your efforts. Our scientist should be congratulated for it You should be ashamed as you have created hinderance in their way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will wind up my speech after saying few words. This Government have given its utmost attention towards Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities. In Bihar elections to Panchayats have not been held for the last 18-19 years, State Government has no time to hold Panchayat elections. The Supreme Court, threfore, has issued an order this week only, sitting aside all the Panchayats Raj institutions in the State, because elections have not been held for the last 18-19 years.....(*Interruptions*) The court has written that the Government itself is holding back the elections.

Now I will speak on the atrocities being committed on Harijans and dalits in Bihar. Atrocities on Scheduled Castes In Bihar are on an increase. According to figure, In 1990-1079, 1991-1050, 1992-1699, 1993-1821, 1994-1288, 1995-979 - it is continuously increasing. The number of incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes are increasing because the State Government claimed to be their protector. Even the number of rape cases with Scheduled Cates women in Bihar are on the increase. Today 'Gondas' are not afraid in the State. They used to take away girls forcibly from the running trains. Recently such an incident took place this month in the State. They took away girls and woman from the running trains. The Union Government and State Government are headed by your party. During the first half of 1996, the incidents of atrocities on Scheduled castes women have risen to 247. The attacks on Harijan is going on. People are being killed. Their women is being disgraced. Police had beaten the students in a student hostel in Patna and evacuated them from the hostel. It is their social justice and it is there real face.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much. In the end I will wind up my speech by reciting a poem:-

> "Jheel par badal barasata hein, Hamare desh mein,
>
> khet pani ko tarasta hein, Hamare desh mein (Inki sarkar ke karan)
>
> Jindgi ka hal khasta hein, Hamare desh mein,
>
> Dudh mehenga, khoon sasta hein, Hamare desh mein,
>
> Ab wajiron, officeron our pagloon ko chorkar,
>
> Tumhi bataou, kaun hansata hein, Hamare desh mein?"

[English]

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH (Chitradurga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in May, 1996, the elections to Lok Sabha were held and then a Government was formed. There have been statements to the effect from both sides of the House that the people have been with either of them.

18.14 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

It is true that there was no agreement between the United Front partners before we fought the election and that the agreement that was arrived at was a subsequent event. That cannot, by itself, nullify the sanctity of the agreement between the uniting partners. However, there is another point which is equally relevant in this regard and that is : Has the B.J.P. been able to get a majority? It is true that the B.J.P. has got the largest number of seats in this House. But then we can also forcefully say that the people, that is the electorate, have rejected the B.J.P. in a way. To the extent that they have rejected communal forces, the mandate is clearly in our favour, whether there was an agreement or not. At the time to forming the government there were again theories, there were again speculations as to who will form the Government. By a quirk of fate, or by development of circumstances, the President was pleased to invite the B.J.P to form the Government and an opportunity was given to them probably on the sole ground that they command the largest number of Members in this House. It was given and the B.J.P ran the Government for about 13 days and according to the directions of the President they were to seek the Vote of Confidence; they sought and they lost. We can always extend this precedent or analogy if we go strictly by the rule book to Uttar Pradesh also. The B.J.P. can legitimately say: We are the single largest party in U.P. and there is a precendent set by the President of India in respect of the Lok Sabha; could not the Governor follow the same

[Shri P. Kodanda Ramaiah]

precedent in Uttar Pradesh? Perhaps Yes; but equally forcefully I can say: Is it safe for the common man and for the minorities to allow the B.J.P. to form the Government?

We can always argue: 'Okay, in Punjab we have got the B.J.P forming the Government along with the Akali Dal. You call them communal forces. The electorate has elected them and they formed the Government. Heavens have not fallen', But then, we cannot extend the logic of Punjab or Delhi or Bombay to Uttar Pradesh. I am tempted now and then to suggest to my Party that we should allow the B.J.P to form the Government there. But the way the B.J.P. Members speak in this House, including the Leader of the B.J.P. at the time he was answering for the Confidence Motion in the Lok Sabha, that had they got sufficient numbers with them, they would have raked up the *Ram Janmabhoomi* issue, that is one deterrent for any common sense to prevent the B.J.P from forming the Government in Uttar Pradesh.

Even now an hon. Member from the other side was criticising the President's speech to say that this issue was not included in his speech. I always wonder whether the B.J.P. has got any economic programme of their own. I have never seen any B.J.P. Member talking about it. I have not seen much of their agenda of action, and economics appears to be the last resort of the B.J.P. They hardly speak about it. What is it that they speak about - the greatness of the country? Yes, the country is great, Whoever said it is not? Take patriotism, yes, they are patriots; so are we. And then on the ground that this country has 930 million population , it is the greatest country. We can always feel proud about our country. But then the country's strength depends not on the number of people inhabiting the country but on the economic base of the country.

For instance, the B.J.P. has been criticising Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Sheikh Abdullah day in and day out about their statements pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : It is Farooq Abdullah.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sorry, it is Farooq Abdullah, his son. Anyway, it is a change-over from father to son, I suppose.

Now, they have been criticising about this. What is wrong about saying a point of view? Do you mean to say that there should be what you call uniformity and not unity? There is an emphasis laid by the B.J.P. on the word 'uniformity' and definitely not on 'unity'. They seem to confuse between the two. They always talk of uniformity. Uniformity means no dissent, no discussion, no internal democracy.

Shri Farooq Abdullah has said that the Line of Control could be the international border.

Okay, it is a thinking, it is a suggestion, it can be discussed and he is not the final arbiter of the fate of the border. Similarly, in a similar way, the Prime Minister has said that we can have a dialogue with Pakistan on the actual Line of Control but with some adjustment. Is it a big thing for the Prime Minister to say? Many people have said that in the past, including Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, immediately after our forces had withdrawn on our own volition, it had also been talked about by Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in Shimla. I would also like to talk about it saying why should we not enter into a dialogue with Pakistan and try to settle the dispute on which we have been wasting money for so many years. We fought three wars against Pakistan, but with what result? We surrendered all the territories we have gained, some territories were on the border. That was an international convention that when there is peace, an amicable settlement between the warring countries, whatever areas have been occupied by either of the parties should be surrendered. That has happened. Did we lose our head? Let us talk about Chinese aggression on our country. Do you mean to say that we have got back all the territories now under the occupation of China or occupied by them in 1962? Why are you not crying hoarse about Chinese occupation? There is some illogical stand on the part of the B.J.P. in this matter. They will not allow anything to be settled. It looks as if they would like to build up their party on unnecessary controversies.

I come to Article 356 of the Constitution and the devolution of powers as suggested by the Sarkaria commission. That is one of our strong points in the Common Minimum Programme and I urge my Government that we should bring up necessary amendment to the Constitution and a legislation, if necessay, on other aspects, to delegate more powers to the States. If we do not think that BJP is very much concerned about devolution of powers to the State. They would like to have a strong Centre for reasons best known to them. I am reminded of certain statements issued by the fascists and the Nazists during the Second World War and even before the Second World War about the unity of the country and the centralisation of power. If the motive of any party is to concentrate power, it means that it is not interested in the welfare of the people or in the interest of local self-Government of the people.

It is necessary now for us to enter the field of national reconciliation. It is true that we fight BJP and we are totally on different wavelengths as far as secularism of this country and protection to minorities are concerned. But then, there are many areas where we can always think of reconciliation and we should set national goals. We have not been talking of national goals, what should be the national priorities. The Defence of the country, the population policy and the economic policy of the country have been controversial all through. We have not been able, as leaders of the country, to set national agenda for our country. We have not set it. Even in the field of population control, we enter into dirty and very cheap politics indeed. it is, thereofore, necessary that we should think of reconciliation of conflicting interests, especially in the areas where there is no conflict and decide of the national goals.

Much has been said about what the Home Minister has said on Uttar Pradesh and the reaction of the Governor. I really feel that it was not a healthy thing that has happened. There is the Home Minister who has said something and there is a Governor who has said a different thing. Then, he

was stating about his direct talk with somebody else. I wish these people exercised some restraint on themselves instead of leading to some unseemly controversies and giving scope to others to unnecessarily talk about us. Indeed, I agree that it is not a healthy development for Union Home Minister to speak something and the Governor to speak a different thing, however autonomous the Governor may be .

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We welcome hon. P. Kodanda Ramaiah's enlightenment.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : It is not a question of enlightenment. I would like to speak the truth, however bitter it is to you or my colleagues in the party.

It is, therefore, advisable for our Government to set its house in order and to see that it does not give scope for controversies.

Then, we go to empowernment of deprived sections. There is a reference to this in the speech delivered by the President. I strongly support this laudable objective of the United Front Government, as stated by the President.

Then, I have introduced two Private Members' Bills which are pending before this House, for empowernment of the Backward Classes. We have had this spectacle of the court giving a judgement in the nature of a law. I always opposed it. The Supreme Court has said that the reservation should not exceed 50 per cent of the total number of posts. But I personally feel and rightly so, that according to law, the Supreme Court has no business to say as to what should be the percentage of reservation. It is for this House, the Lok Sabha, to say as to what should be the percentage of reservation. Definitely, it is not for the Supreme Court to say, because the Supreme Court can always say one thing as to whether a particular legislation passed by us is *Intra vires* or *ultra vires* of the constitutional provisions. If it is *ultra vires* of the Constitution, the Supreme Court is within its powers to strike it down. If it is *intra vires*, it can uphold the law. But while striking down a law considering it *ultra vires* of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has no business to transgress into the field of legislation. It can only say that this particular law is invalid. Then, what is the next step for us? The next step for us is to bring the legislation back before this House with such modifications as are necessary to ensure that the legislation conforms to the provisions of the Constitution. This should have been done.

Now, I urge upon the Government to bring forward a legislation to provide reservation for the Backward Classes, both in the elected bodies as well as in Government services commensurate with their percentage in the total population. For example, in a state like Uttar Pradesh, let us say that the Backward Classes form about 55 per cent of the population on the basis of the Census. Then, it should be for the State Legislature to pass a law providing 55 per cent reservation for the Backward Classes in that State.

For example, Tamil Nadu has passed a law that the reservation for the Backward Classes should be 69 per cent and for valid reasons, I suppose, because the States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka have always been the pioneer States in the matter of providing reservation for the deprived sections of the society, Now, that law has been brought into the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution by this House. In spite of that, the Supreme Court has said that it is null and void and it is compelling the States to restrict reservation to 50 per cent which is incorrect.

I, therefore, suggest that before we talk of reservation to women, for a moment I am not opposed to reservation for women, but then reservation to women is something like putting the cart before the horse - We Should, first of all, think of reservation to the Backward Classes. After providing reservation for the Backward Classes, in each group we should provide 33 per cent reservation for women. After providing reservation to the Backward Classes, broadly there will be three groups. One is 'General', the second is 'Other Backward Classes' and the third is 'the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes'. Once we do that, we should provide 33 per cent reservation to women in all the three categories which is very necessary and this Bill has to be broght by the Government.

As far as the economic policy is concerned, I am totally opposed to the policy of giving subsidy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are many other speakers to speak in this debate.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Madam, though there are many other points, this is the last point I will make.

On the economic front, this Government has stated that they have sanctioned subsidies to the farming community in the matter of supply of power, fertiliser, sprinkler irrigation and other things. But, I think, it is a retrograde step if you equate a small or marginal farmer with a landlord. The policy is pro-kulak. I would strongly urge this Government to modify the policy and have, at least, differential rates of subsidy to the poorer sections of the farming community and the richer sections of the farming community.

Lastly, as far as the public sector undertakings, public investment and disinvestment in the public sector undertakings are concerned, I would strongly recommend to this Government that they have to go in for better liberalisation process. Whatever liberalisation we have achieved is halting and it is not sufficient. We cannot take one step forward and put two steps backward. The Government should go in with a vigour in favour of liberalisation process and then, there should be freedom of investment for foreigners.

For example, take China. China is a Communist country. In a period of 10 years, China was able to attract $ 53 billion of investment and in the same period India could get only $ 4.6 billion of investment. How can we fault the Communist system? Our Communist friends keep on telling us that we should not go in for liberalisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Madam, I would have

[Shri P. Kodanda Ramaiah]

preferred to speak for some more time. But then your bell is ringing far too often.

Lastly, I want to say one thing. While giving opportunity to the Members to speak, I find that the Chair is rather lenient to the senior Members and the Chair keeps on allowing them to speak for hours together. But when we, the junior Members, would like to speak on some points, we are restricted in time. However, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate. I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Madam, I support the hon. Member on this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of us were juniors at one point of time. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak. I support the motion of thanks on the Presidential Address. President Address has highlighted the Government policies regarding the development of farmers, poors and weaker classes and minorities I hope that United Front Government will work for their betterment.

When this House was Constituted in 1996, BJP was given a chance to form the Government. But they have to relinquish the office after 13 days. Thereafter United Front of 13 parties have formed the Government. This Government is running very efficiently for which I congratulate it. There is peace in the country. The law and order situation is under control. There is no riots. The commual riots have been checked. I congratulate Shri Deve Gowda ji for this situation. He is running this Government with the support of all parties. This fact cannot be overlooked. As far BJP is concerned, two ideology are at work in the country, secular ideology on one side and communal on the other. The real fight is between secular and communal forces. This country cannot prosper unless it gets rid of communalism. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has started a war against communalism in Uttar Pradesh, which is still going on. Our United Front is also fighting this war. I am of the belief that this country cannot prosper unless it gets rid of communalism.

As far as Muslims and minorities are concerned. I appeal to the Government that they are very backward. There should be educational development of these people. Unless there is educational development, their country cannot develop. A man can not be termed as healthy until his all parts of the body are functioning properly. If he has a stroke of paralysis, he can not be termed as healthy. Similarly a healthy society is one in which people of all the classes, communities are developed. Only then our country can develop. Today because Muslims are educationally backward, that is why I have demanded that.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Supporting your view I want to ask an information what steps had been taken during the last 50 years by the so called secular previous Government for providing education to the poor Muslims? Whether there is any such scheme in this President Address? If not, then how are you supporting Deve Gowda?

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ : I will reply to these questions. First hear me. Anyway, I have demanded that at least Rs. one thousand crore should be allocated in the budget for the educational development of Muslims in India

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : You are demanding but they have not allocated?

DH. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ: Government will be providing. Secondly, representation of Muslims in Government jobs is almost negligible.....(*Interruptions*) Although there are some educated Muslims, yet they are not provided jobs. It is not, as if all muslims are uneducated. The Muslims are very less educated. I urge upon the Government that reservation should be given to the Muslims in Public services. There are 30 crore Muslims in India. The Muslims should be given at least 20 per cent reservation in Government jobs. If it is not done, the Muslims will become backward and the per capita income in every field in the country will fall and the country will no longer be fit to be called a developing country.

I am sorry to say that employees of Sunni Central Waqf Board in Lucknow are not getting their salary for the last one year. They were on hunger strike for four months, but one year salary is outstanding. How they will meet the expenditure of education of their children etc? I urge upon the Government to direct the Governor immediately to arrange to pay their salaries. BJP only used to speak against the Governor....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Sunni Board and Shiya Board are not getting the same support today.....(*Interruptions*)

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ : Bhandari Sahib has tighten the law and order situation and tone up the administration that is why you people are upset. You have only one slogan against Governor. Therefore, I urge upon the Governnment to immediately make arrangement to pay the salaries to the employees of Sunni Central Waqf Board. This year we are going to celebrate Golden Jubilee of Independence. But in this hour we should evaluate our achievements and deficiencies during the last 50 years. We should try to remove these deficiencies and work for the progress of the country.

I am elected from Moradabad area....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on Presidents Address Later on you can speak on the problem of your area.

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ : It can also be said. I will give reference of a survey report. There is a Government Report thereon.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be given opportunity to speak on small industries at the time of budget.

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ : I want to tell the injustice done to us.

[English]

I quote from the "Review Study of Metal Handicrafts Industry in Moradabad" which says:

" Survey reveals the fact that in 1975-76, its total

turnover was Rs. 17.01 crores, which, in 1980-81 increased to Rs. 72.09 crores. In 1985-86, its total turnover was registered around Rs. 102.89 crores which, in 1990-91, jacked up to Rs. 235.78 crores, Altogether, it also mantained the pace of its development and its total turnover in 1995-96 reached Rs. 1200 crores and 1996-97 witnessed the growth of up to Rs. 1700 crores."

[Translation]

The total turnover of Moradabad is Rs. 1700 crore, but there is acute shortage of power in this area. Lakhs of craftsmen are without work. A project at the cost of Rs. 46 crore has been formulated, which has since been sanctioned by the Union Government . I urge upon the Government to expedite the implementation of this project in Moradabad and release the funds, so that Moradabad can be developed. The 80 per cent earning of total small industries in the country which is Rs. 1700 crore, comes from Moradabad. The rest of 20 per cent earnings comes from the rest of entire country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking on President's Address not on budget. Your time is over.

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ: It is also a part of budget.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Madam, I am of the view that local problems should not be discussed, while speaking on the President's Address, but he has mentioned... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ It can be discussed. The real problem is the development of area The country can only be prosper if area is developed That is why I had mentioned it. It is also very essential All our areas should be developed and mine too. My area is an important one I want to wind up my speech by reciting a couplet.

"Aaine javan mardi hq goeo bebaki.

Allah ke sereon ko aati nahin rubai."

With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks and hope...

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA . Sir, your whole speech was against the motion

DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ : I am supporting it. My each word is in its favour because a mother does not feed her baby until he cries. This is why I am making this request to the P.M and the Government so that the problem I am facing and my country is facing may be solved and the errors and shortcomings may be addressed. I am hopeful that my submission would be taken into consideration and more money would be allocated for my region, Moradabad.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : I would like to recite a couplet :

"Mujhe maloom hai jannat ki haqeeqat kya hai,

magar dil behlane ke liye Ghalib ye khayal achacha hai"

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Sir, you are expressing a conflicting viewpoint,'

Sheron ki tarah jinse dahara nahin jaata,

izzat ki tarah unko pukara nahin jaata,

Maikhana-i Quaram mein peene nahin deti Duniya naamard ko jeene nahin dati.'

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please stop reciting couplets and let the speech begin.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the discussion on the Presidential Address has been going on for past few days. I would also like to make a submission in this regard. I feel that there is a wide divergence between what has been professed in the Presidential Address and what is actually being done. I also feel sorry that such a respectable person as the President has been made to say such things which are not based on truth. It is an attempt to hide reality through verbose language. It is the misfortune of this nation that the development has not taken place in balanced manner, rather unplanned development has taken place because of which this country once known as the golden bird is in such a state today that 37 percent people have came under the poverty line. They do not have houses to live in, food to eat or any clothes to wear.

Eight five year plans have been completed so far in our country, 10 percent people of our country may have been benefited by them but 90 percent people have remained deprived of benefits. This is the reason due to which the poor became poorer and rich became richer. The gap between the poor and rich grew wider and wider. I feel that the centralised policy and politicialisation is responsible for this state of affairs because of which the country is in such a position. Whichever government may be ruling the country but it should draft such future plans through esteemed institutions of the country such as Parliament, so that appropriate and planned development may take place but unfortunately such a thing did not happen.

It was stated in the Presidential Address that the States would be given more power as per the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission however, they have not been implemented so far. The most important recommendation made by the Sarkaria Commission was pertaining to Article 356 but as we can see how Article 356 is being misused in case of U.P. It shows that this Government does not wish to implement even a single recommendation of Sarkaria Commission.

While formulating the schemes for development of the country, the backwardness was not taken into consideration, rather the political mileage was the uppermost criterion. As a result thereof the situation is worsening further. In the interest of the nation; in the interest of the people of this country and in view of the culture, language requirements of the people, the Shiromani Akali Dal had made some suggestions 25 years ago, one of them being more powers to the states, without which the country can not progress.

I am very pleased to note that except Congress Party, every party feels that it is essential to give more powers to the states for the development of the country, for the well-

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

being of the people and tor fulfilling the aspirations of the people. The Congress Party has ruled this country by adopting a Divide and Rule policy and some of my colleagues from the Congress Party have vehemently opposed the proposals put forward by Shiromani Akali Dal in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. It seems that they still have not been able to gauge the condition the country is in today. In the name of development, looting is taking place. It was said that the country would be set on the path of progress through the development of telecom but it resulted in the telephone scandal. Similarly in name of augmenting Defence position, Bofors deal was clinched and Bofors scandal took place. Under the pretext of progress of economy of the country, shares were floated but in that case too, a scandal was unearthed.

Madam, thousand crores of rupees were misappropriated in the name of providing sugar for the people. Thus, all such instance clearly indicate that discrimination is taking place and that it should be investigated and the Government should admit that such things are happening and these cases should be investigated.

Madam, there is resentment in the people. They have been deprived of their rights. Each state of this country has its own capital but Punjab does not have its own capital. Many states were founded on the basis of language however, in case of Punjab even when a state was formed on the basis of Punjabi language, some areas were left out, about which there is still some dispute. Similarly there is water dispute also. A very old Riparian law is still in force in the country. There are conventions but still they are not being followed and government is not prepared to give Punjab its own share of water. Such discrimination is being made. I would request the government to stop making such discriminations.

Madam, the backward states should be given more automony. It has been mentioned in the Rajiv-Longowal accord and Sarkaria Commission has also recommended it but this Government has not accepted any of these proposals and recommendation, that is why I say that there is a wide divergence between what it professes and what it actually does.

Madam, the President made a very heart-rending statement in his address to the nation on 26th January, that corruption is spreading its tentacles in the country. The corrupt and the terrorists have joined hands. The standard of politics is falling. He was constrained to make such a statement because of the situation prevalent in the nation today. What are the reasons for such a situation? I feel that it is because of the corruption. Administration is responsible for the widespread corruption. When Administration invited tenders for telecommunications, the rules and regulations were not observed because of which this scandal took place. Similarly Fodder scam took place because of violation of rules. Thus the laxity on the part of administrative authorities is encouraging corrpution.

Madam, the 1984 massacre is another istance of failure of Administration. It is termed as a riot by my friends but I maintain that that was not a riot but an open massacre wherein people of a particular community were butchered and thousands of women were widowed. People took law in their own hands and burnt alive the people of a particular community. Women were raped. There was no law and order. If an accident takes place, silence is observed in the House for a few minutes in order to pray for those killed in the accident, however, at that time, when three thousand people were massacred, nobody uttered a word in the House to express grief for the departed souls. That is why the feelings of separatism took root in the hearts of people belonging to that community. This responsibility lies with the Administrative authorities of this country. Instead, a number of leaders were awarded the Ministership by the then Government.

Madam, when a huge tree falls down, the earth shakes. That is what has happened. An Hon'ble Judge of Delhi Court has given the judgement that those responsible for the 1984 massacre should be indentified. Still nothing has been done in this regard and instead the persons involved in this massacre have been made ministers. Where is your secularism and what about the unity and integrity of the nation. You make tall claims about Secularism. I feel that we have two kinds of parties. One of these parties has faith in the moral code and the other party is the immoral party having no ethics. This Government has imprisoned all the ethical persons and it has made the immoral and sinful people powerful and influential. Those involved in massacre have been made ministers. This Government calls itself a minority Government and a protector of law. My submission is that Deve Gowda Government should come out with the names of those behind this massacre and those identified so far. One can not trust such a Government. Just now someone was saying here that there is no difference in the price of wheat being imported for the farmers. I do not know whether he was making this statement. knowingly or out of ignorance. There is indeed a difference. Last year, the farmers were given Rs. 380 per quintal for wheat and now it is being imported @ Rs. 600. Today also, an announcement was made that it has been revised to Rs. 415 per quintal. They claim that they are giving support price to farmers but wheat is being sold @ Rs. 600 per quintal in the markets of Delhi. So, what is the use of this support price? The prices of foodgrains have been increased. There is no long term plan in this regard. Country is facing the situation of power crisis. The newspapers and the economists are of the opinion that a hydel project should be launched to solve the power crisis but, nobody is ready to initiate it. No allocation has been made for it.

Madam, we speak volumes on the condition of our country. The Raavi water is flowing out into Pakistan since 1965, it has been said that the Thein Dam be constructed. Thein Dam could have been built in 85 crore rupees and that water could have been utilised by Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and it could have helped in power generation. It would have been less costlier comparatively because today the cost of the same project has risen to 2650 crore rupees. We are not able to generate power and water is also being given to them. How does this Government claim to be the well-wisher of the nation. One can not trust the readymade and conventional speeches of this Government. I vehemently oppose the Motion of thanks on the Presidential

Address and request this House not to pass this Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House permits, the time of today's sitting may be extended by half an hour.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : All right, you may do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hereafter all the Members should keep the time factor in mind while speaking.

18.58 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *In the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North): Thank you Mr. Chairman for the kind opportunity given to me to express a few words in support of the the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The hon. Members who have expressed themselves during the course of the debate have referred to various aspects of the contents of the Address. At this juncture I would like to address to certain salient aspects of the Address which give expression to the basic philosophy or the policies and programmes of the United Front Government as mainly contained in the Common Minimum Programme enunciated by the Government. Coming within the ambit of the Common Minimum Programme are some of the major objectives which include mainly the issue of devolution of power to the States. India is a federal set up.

19.00 hrs.

Under the Constitution, we are a Union of States.

So far, ever since Independence, it has been our experience that more and more powers are being concentrated at the Centre and the States have literally been reduced to the status of municipalities. It is in this background that I feel that Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was chosen the Leader of the United Front Government by the various political parties, especially the regional parties who wanted to see that more and more devolution of powers in favour of the States was brought into effect in this country by the new Government.

As a step towards achieving this objective, the United Front Government has already convened meetings of the Inter-State Council, National Development Council and Conferences of the Chief Ministers of States wherein historic decisions have been taken, even though many decisions remain to be taken. Among the decisions taken by the Conference of the Chief Ministers is the decision relating to provision of basic minium services to the people of this country. Even after fifty years of Independence and after an attempt to usher in planned development in the country, we have not been able to provide basic facilities to the people.

The facilities included in the programme are: provision of safe drinking water in every habitation, provision of public housing assistance to shelterless poor persons, connecting village habitations with link roads to the nearest market or the main road, nutritional support to children belonging to poor families during pre-school and elementary education stages, universal and compulsory primary education and measures to spread literacy, provision of efficient primary health care for every group of five thousand persons and streamlining the public distribution system with focus on the poor.

So, with the objective of fulfilling or providing these basic services, the United Front Government, in its first Budget, earmarked Rs. 2242 crore to be released to the States for achieving this objective. Now, the Budget has already been placed before the House for the current year. The allocation in the present Budget for this purpose has been greatly increased. Now the allocation exceeds Rs. 3,000 crore which includes Rs. 300 crore for slum development, that is provision of housing in the slums.

Another important reference in this is that provision has been made for subsidised foodgrains to the people living below the poverty line. A massive subsidy allocation of over Rs. 8,000 crore has been provided for this purpose in the coming year's Budget, which has already been presented to us. I would like to mention about this scheme because personal references were made to the hon. Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda in respect of the various schemes that have been included in the Budget.

This was one of the schemes that was first initiated in some of the States in the south of our country- Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. When the Janata Government took over the reigns of administration in Karnataka, it introduced first the Rs.2 per kilogram of rice scheme. Later on, when Shri H.D. Deve Gowda became the Chief Minister, this scheme which had been abandoned by the earlier Government was reintroduced for providing foodgrains to the poor people of the State of Karnataka.

Now, this very scheme is sought to be extended to the whole of the country. Even the States which had the inclination to provide foodgrains at a cheaper price, like the State of Andhra Pradesh, found it very difficult to meet the financial burden of implementing this programme. It is in the fitness of things that I compliment, through you , this Government for introducing this measure irrespective of the fact that this is going to involve an allocation of thousands of crores of rupees to implement this programme. I would like, at this juncture, to say that brought within this scheme are the schemes for supply of foodgrains, mainly rice and wheat. I am sure, there are areas in our country, like some parts of Karnataka or even Maharashtra where locally. produced foodgrains like *jowar* or *ragi* are used as staple foods. Especially in the rural areas, even today people do not make use of wheat. Some of them eat rice in such areas because it was the practice in Karnataka. At one time I happened to be involved in the process of distributing foodgrains. There was a scheme of procurement of these staple cereals, like *ragi* or *jowar* under the procurement scheme of the State Government. These very foodgrains were issued through the public distribution system under the subsidised category.

I request and suggest through you that a similar step may be taken by the Union Government for bringing into effect this restructured public distribution scheme. Wherever local food habits are diverse and wherever wheat is not consumed, local foodgrains procurement may be undertaken which would encourage the farmers to raise

[Shri C. Narayana Swamy]

these crops and to have a minimum support price which is not available to them otherwise.

The distribution network will have to be streamlined so that the benefits intended to be given to the families below the poverty line, accrue to those very families and are not misutilised by the anti-social forces in the process.

There is a reference in the President's Address to the proposed attempt of the Central Government towards strengthening the forces of decentralisation. We are all aware of the fact that the Constitution was amended to provide for the statutory authority and recognition for the establishment and continuance of the local self- governing institutions. Under the 73rd Constitution Amendment, there is a provision for the establishment of *panchayats* which have been established all over the country except in one or two places. Now, under the 74th Constitution Amendment, there is a stipulation or a mandate for the establishment of urban local bodies which have been by and large established in our country. It is also a fact that the Constitution under Article 40 under the Directive Principles of State Policy, enjoins upon the State to establish *panchayats* and endow them with such power and authority as would enable them to function as self-governing institutions. This very phrase finds a place in the Constitution Amendment. It is now mandatory on the part of the States not only to establish *panchayats* but also to endow them with such power and authority as would enable these local self-governing institutions to perform as self-governing institutions. But it is unfortunate that when we have a look around the States that have been brought into being after the Constitutional Amendment Including the Act that was brought in by the then Congress Government in Karnataka by repealing the earlier Zilla Parishad Act of 1983, we find that there is only a reference to the mandatory provisions of the Constitution so far as setting up of the Finance Commission, setting up of the State Election Commission and also listing the various programmes mentioned in the Schedules of the Constitution Amendment are concerned.

But no attempt is made to endow these *Panchayat* Raj institutions or local bodies with sufficient power to enable them to function as autonomous bodies or self- governing institutions.

Another hon. Member from my State of Karnataka, Shri Ananth Kumar was mentioning the other day about the sad state of affairs of these institutions in the State of Karnataka. But I want to ramind him, through you, Sir, that the present Act is not introduced by the present Janata Dal Government. The Janata Government ushered a model *Panchayat Raj* in Karanataka in 1980s; that Act was repealed by the subsequent Government.

The Naik Committee went into the question of amendments to the State Act. I only urge on the State Government to take necessary action to amend the Act or to bring into being again, the earlier Act, making provisions which are there in the present Constitution (Amendment) Act ....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can allow you, only if he yieds...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sir time is running out and I want to make two other important points, I crave Indulgence of the hon. Chairman.....(*Interruptions*)

Elections were not held to these institutions for a long time; a Constitution (Amendment) Bill was thought of. We have another organ where democracy is functioning at the grassroots-- the cooperative institutions. The experience of States where elections have not been held for these cooperative institutions for years together is sad; these cooperative institutions which otherwise should be elected bodies, are running under the Administration for years together. I would, through you, Sir, call upon the Government to kindly initiate steps to bring in Constitution Amendments on the lines of the *Panchayat Raj* Act so that these cooperative institutions become Statutory bodies, constitutionally empowered to have an existence and also to serve some useful purpose in various spheres Including rural and urban sectors .....(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Members are aware that the allocation for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Eighth Plan was Rs. 30,000 crore, Now, under the Ninth Plan, it has been doubled and it is now Rs. 60,000 crore, which is an allocation for Agriculture and Rural Development including Rural Employment Programmes. It should go to the credit of this Government headed by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda that additional allocation has been made for the purpose. Various new schemes like the Accelerated Irrigation Development Programme have been introduced wherein we have an allocation of Rs. 1,300 crore for the coming year and also there is a provision of subsidised drip irrigation facilities, agricultural machinery, etc.

I want to make only one point about reservation. It is one of the points in the Common Minimum Programme. The United Front Government has given an assurance that suitable steps would be taken for making provision for women in the representation to the Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. There is also a reference for providing reservation in the Government employment. I would, through you, Sir, call upon the leaders of all the political parties in this august House of Parliament to arrive at a consensus.

I also call upon them to see that this measure of providing for reservation is approved in this august House in the current Session itself.

There is another item also which is pending, that is, reservation for *dalit* Christians under this category. Whether it is provided for separately or whether it is brought under reservation as is made for the neo-Buddhists or the Scheduled Castes converted Buddhists, this may also be considered. At the time of Shri Deve Gowda in Karnataka, it was the first State to bring in reservation in the local bodies like *taluka panchayats* and *zilla panchayats* where there is reservation for Backward Classes including minorities like Christians, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists. And it is still in force and reservation of women coming within this category is also being provided for.

With these words, thanking the honourable Chair for giving me this opportunity to speak, I support the Motion of Thanks.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Madam, no mention has been made in the Presidential Address regarding the expansion of schemes for the development of small scale industries. So long as the network of small scale industries is not formed in the rural areas, the rural areas will not be developed and there will be no progress also. It was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and Choudhary Charan Singh that more and more agro-based industries should be set up in the rural region and small scale industries should be set up.

Our country is predominently an agricultural country. Agriculture is the back bone of our country. So long as the network of agro based industries is not set up in the rural region, there would be no increase in employment avenues. I would like to give an instance. During 1994-95, 65.5 million tonnes of wheat was produced in the country, however the production fell during 1995-96. The production of wheat fell and wheat had to be imported. During 1994-95, the sugarcane growers devoted most of their lands for sowing wheat at a large scale however they could not do so during 1995-96. So long as the sugarcane growers remain dependent on large scale industries, the production of wheat would not increase, I would like to cite an instance. If a Small Scale Khandsari unit having the crushing capacity of 5000 quintals per day, is regularised and delicenced, there would be an improvement in the quality of sugar and the recovery would go up from 6% to 10%. The National loss of 4% would be saved and after the implementation of such a provision, the sugarcane growers who are financially in a weak position may be able to get the price of Rs. 150 per quintal of sugarcane daily because if the owner himself runs the industry, the quality in comparison to that of large scale industries, is bound to improve and the recovery rate will also go up. Sugar enjoys the position of being a major industry in our country but even then no research has been taken up in this field in order to produce power alcohal or rubber by using it as a medium whereas throughout the world there are 80 lakh vehicles running on the power of alcohal. We can prepare butadiene from molasses and alcohal and butadiene can help in manufacturing synthetic rubber whereas in Barellly, synthetic rubbber is being manufactured by importing butadiene.

Bitumen roads do not lost long in our country. If the production of rubber goes up just like France, we can use rubber to lay roads which would have a long life. This will help check the misuse of money and the corrupt will also get fewer opportunities to misappropriate funds.

Secondly, the power shortage has not been mentioned in the Presidential Address. There has been a decline in power generation. Sugar units are run in the rural regions and in the same region sugarcane industries are generating power. These industries have the capacity to generate 10 megawatt power every day. Japan is buying iron ore from us and has emerged as a major power in the field of steel. If we instal high pressure boilers and provide relief to these sugar industries and rebate in the excise duty, they would be able to generate 10 megawatt power daily which is sufficient to run three furnaces and by running there furnaces, 6000 tonnes of steel can be produced by these very industries. This will help the sugar industries in earning more money and when their earnings increase, the earnings of sugarcance growers would also go up and they would get the price of Rs. 150 per quintal for their sugarcane. This measure will benefit the nation.

My submission is that all these points have not been mentioned in the Presidential Address. If the Government acts upon these proposals, our country would be in the position to export wheat and sugar on a permanent basis. There would be no need to export iron ore. There could be a saving on foreign exchange. Since all these points are not mentioned in the Presidential Address, hence I oppose this Motion.

[English]

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Sharad Yadav for thanking the President for delivering such a nice Address to the Parliament. The main achievement of the Government has been to check rise of the reactionary and communal forces which were spreading their wings to every walk of the society. The Government has done a commendable job in improving bilateral and multilateral relations with its neighbours and other political powers.

We had a very encouraging picture of the economy which is now generating resources in the country on the one hand and inviting foreign participants for investment in the core sector. The Government have encouraged mixed economy. And after the United Front Government came to power, the public sector, which had earlier suffered financially due to mismanagement, has started showing signs of recovery. It is a welcome feature.

By and large, the country has benefited after the installation of the United Front Government at the Centre. Many countries in the world are watching with interest the success which we hope to derive from the development work initiated by us. I congratulate the Prime Minister and his entire team of Ministers for the excellent work done by them during the last eight or nine months.

I will not take much time. I only want the Ministry of Textiles to set up a unit of the Institute of Fashion Technology at Belgaum. This project has been pending with that Ministry since long.

Secondly, I request that a university for women be sanctioned at Kittur in the name of Rani Kittur Chennamma who fought against the British.

Thirdly, the construction of youth hostels at Sogalu in Belgaum district and 'Yatrika' or 'Yatri Nivas' at Yellammagudda and Sogalu be taken up. These are pending with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and require immediate clearance.

[Shri Shivanand H. Koujalgi]

Further, I request that the amount be released for the development of the Kittur Rani Chennamma - who fought against the British. It is a very essential thing. I would also like to request that the other projects of the State which are pending with the Central Government should also be cleared immediatey.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I shall be very short.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am giving you a thank you in advance.Your predecessor, the earlier two speakers, were very brief and to the point.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I, of course, have options. I would have supported BJP also. A day would come when I would be able to support them also because I find that there are some changes in the policy of even the BJP. We feel that there was a time when it was felt that a plank of communalism alone would bring up a party, because of which some party - I would not name any party - might come up which would go to the extent of using that plank. Now, it is time when we all have to join hands together and find ways as to how the economy of this country, of this great nation could be improved; as to how we could maintain the integrity of the country and as to how we could safeguard the great culture of this country which we have imbibed for so many long years.

Sir, I support many of the programmes which have been initiated by the United Front Government. I am happy that the programmes for the basic minimum needs which have been undertaken are very much meant for the poor people of the country. I am very happy that some amount has been provided for in this years's Budget for the basic minimum needs.

Sir, I would also like to submit on a very important aspect, that is about the poverty line. The level for determining persons living below the poverty line has till now been kept at Rs. 11,000 per annum. Now, when we intend to give benefits to the persons who are living below the poverty line, I think, the time has come when this level of determination of persons living below the poverty line has to re-checked. At least, this amount has to be fixed at Rs. 18000 per annum. There has been hike in prices and inflation as well has gone up. These things have happened not due to the failure of any particular person or due to the failure of any particular Government. There has been a hike for so many reasons and it is a fact. I would like to suggest that this poverty line which has been kept at Rs. 11,000 per annum should be raised to Rs. 18,000 per annum so that the benefits which the Government intends to give would devolve around a larger community and a greater number of people.

I may also submit that there are a lot of persons who are going to be benefited by the revision in salaries in the Government sector. That is a good thing. We all support that. The interest of the salaried people must be looked into. But there is also a very big class of people who do not get a pie as salary. There is a very big class of workers who are not organised. We must have to think of a scheme for these people where Dearness Allowance could be provided to the workers of the unorganised sector, who are very poor and who also need to be given some kind of financial incentive. It is because it is a reality that the prices are going up. I suggest that some kind of a scheme should be thought of by this Government by way of which the poor people, the farmers, the labourers, who are unorganised, who do not get salary as such should be thought of. They may not come under the head 'Dearness Allowance' as such but some financial benefit, in line with the cost of living should accrue to these people.

Sir, I would also like to submit that in agriculture, the farmers are always facing difficulty because they are not getting a proper price for their produce. It is because of several reasons. There is no stability for many of the agricultural produce. For examle, rubber is one of the major products produced in the State of Kerala. We are placed at the fourth position in the world in regard to the production of natural rubber and we are placed at number one in regard to the productivity of rubber.

That is because of the hard labour put in by the labourers and farmers, 90 per cent of whom are small and marginal farmers. These 9.11 lakh rubber farmers who have brought great name for India must be cared for. When we find that prices are going down-- it was Rs. 50 per k.g. about a year back and now it has come down to Rs. 40 -- I suggest that a mechanism should be invented by which we can link the cost of production and the cost of living. There must be an index, there must be a needle which changes in accordance with the cost of living and the cost of production. Some kind of machinery should be found to see that farmers are benefited and not put to difficulties.

Without going into details, I would like to mention one of the new programmes for providing housing for the poor. Even the past Government had taken it up on very large scale and lot of funds were earmarked for the scheme. But I am very sorry to say that providing houses to the poor is not up to the mark even now. There is an association in CAPART through which many of the voluntary organisations are given funds for housing. But, I think, the functioning of this scheme is not proper. It is a fact that a lot of money has been earmarked for providing housing for the poor. Housing is the basic need of the people but it is not reaching them. Housing facility is not reaching the shelterless in accordance with the programme enunciated. This Government should see that this great scheme for which a lot of money has been earmarked is implemented properly.

The Minister of Surface Transport, Shri Venkatraman, is sitting here. Apart from the subject of national highways, the Ministry takes care of many other subjects. Since the Minister is here I would like to bring one aspect to his notice. This issue was discussed this morning also. We are paying a lot of money for petrol and its price is being hiked every year, we are expecting some hike even now. A portion of the money which is paid while buying petrol is earmarked for road construction. But, as the Minister was saying, it is not being given for that purpose. This has been taken very seriously by this House. But I am sure that it was taken very seriously earlier also but nothing has come out of it. This is a thing on

which we would all extend our support and we would all like to see that this money which is being collected by way of cess on petrol should go to the Ministry of Surface Transport who should in turn spend it on the road construction activities. Roads are one aspect of infrastructure where we have to go a long way. Modern India can be built only by building proper express roads. We are not going to go to each place and set up industries but if you build proper roads, as China has done, I am sure the industries will follow. There is no need to set up an industry. If you provide infrastructure, if you provide good roads, if you give power and other infrastructure, I am sure industries would follow. The Surface Tansport Ministry should be given more funds.

I would submit to the Minister that while allocating funds for the construction of national highways, he may kindly remember one road in my constituency connecting Tamil Nadu, Cochin-Madurai road, which was made a national highway ten years ago in the year 1987.But, so far, even the alignment has not been finalised. It is in a very pitiable condition. It should be finalised at the earliest. I am sure that it is under the consideration of the Ministry. I would humbly submit that it should be approved. Funds should be allocated to it so that this national highway can be called a national highway. It cannot be called a national highway now because for the past ten years no funds are given, no development work has taken place because of the fact the the mere alignment itself has not been finalised and fixed. Since the Minister is here, I would submit that this be considered and orders passed without delay.

With regard to the MP's Local Area Development Fund- in which we are all interested - I would like to say that even if the quota for gas connection may be taken off, I think there will be relief for the MPs. Even other quotas may also be taken off.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you also want the MP's Local Area Development Fund be taken off?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : No, Sir, that Fund should not be taken off.

But my humble request is that take off all other quotas, but increase the amount of this Fund. I am sure everybody will agree with this. This is a reasonable demand. This may be increased because this Fund is being distributed every-where. I am sure that within a few years this Fund or a portion of it will reach each and every corner.....(*Interruptions*) When the BJP Government occupy the Treasury Benches, they are going to enhance the amount of the Fund to Rs. 5 crore or Rs. 10 crore. I am sorry to say that that day is not going to come. That day is very long and it is very distant. So we would ask this Government to increase the Fund amount to Rs. 5 crore. I think that this Government should take it up and enhance it to at least Rs. 2 crore or Rs. 5 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas, you are inviting the trouble from them.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I do not find any of them as trouble- givers.

I may only add one aspect and that is regarding power. This is an infrastructural facility which cannot be denied and if it is denied, there will be a great problem.

Today, we met the Prime Minister in regard to a very big chaos which is taking place now in Kerala. In fact, there was a *bandh* in my district today pressing the issue from the students side that at least during SSLC public examination, power cut may be lifted. I think that was a reasonable. demand. The Prime Minister also said that the demand was very reasonable. The previous Government, even though the power constraints were much more than that of now, had taken the decision of lifting power cut during examination time and implemented the same. Now I did not want to raise it here. But the problem is that just because some protest was made in Kerala, a chaotic situation was created there.

What the Home Minister has said about Uttar Pradesh a few day ago can be said about Kerala now. I do not want to drag this matter. But power is a very important element of infrastructure to which a thought should be given.

We were getting additional power, a share from the Government of India. I am very sorry to say that during the past one month that additional allocation of power which was given to Kerala because of the power crisis has also been withdrawn to some extent. I would submit that adequate power should be given by this Government. I would appeal that all the parties, even those sitting in the Opposition should come together to further strengthen this Government. I would urge upon even the Congress party to come forward to strengthen it so that this Government may be able to do much more in the years to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to sit till the two remaining hon. Members finish their speeches?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of the country, from where such leaders as Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Shri Atal Bihari Vajapayee rose to became the Prime Minister of the nation. What is the condition of Uttar Pradesh today? The law and order position is deteriorating there and the dacoities and rapes and other criminal activities are the order of the day. It is not as if I am the only one who is saying such a thing. My colleagues have a similar view point. Again it is not as if only my colleagues are making such statements but the Hon'ble Home Minister is holding the same office as was once held by Late Sardar Patel who symbolised the unity and integrity of the nation. Why doesn't his opinion carry any weight? What type of Government do we have here? The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Romesh Bhandari says something at which he replies that he might be making such a statement. I am not bothered about the Home Minister. He says that his relationship with Prime Minister is fine. The Defence Minister says that everything is fine. However the situation in Uttar Pradesh has worsened to such an extent that a farmer's son dare not go to his fields at night. In Uttar Pradesh, if one happens to come face to face with a wild

[Shri Nakli Singh]

animal at six o' clock in the evening, there is no problem, however, if one happens to come face to face with another human being, then there is a reason for worry. Kidnapping has became a full fledged industry. Anarchy is prevalent every where. One fails to understand as to whether the Governor of the state is more capable than the President of the country? It is true that the state has been under the President Rule for the last one year. However, from 1979 to 1996, this convention has been laid by the President that the leader of the largest party is invited to hold the office of Prime Minister or Chief Minister. Still the BJP leaders are not being invited to hold the office of Chief Minister even if the state is in ruins, the farmers are ruined. They are being offered two different rates for sugarcane. The roads in Uttar Pradesh are in a bad condition and this downward trend would continue but even then the BJP won't be allowed to form a Government, is the uppermost thought in their mind.

The present Government comprises of 13-14 parties and if any of these parties had as many elected members as the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, the leader of that party would have been invited by now to hold the office of the Chief Minister and form a Government. This is a retaliatory measure against BJP. The Governor had stated two days before the Assembly was scheduled to meet that it is not necessary that he would invite the leader of the largest Party to form a Government. It is necessary to be faithful to one's nation and it is also essential to go by the constitution of the country but is it equally essential to seek revenge? It is true that the Governor had been defeated in elections by a BJP candidate in 1989 but how long would this bitterness continue? The farmers are troubled. Sugarcane is being purchased at two different rates.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the Presidential Address. You are raising the U.P. issue only. The time is also limited. Hence please be brief.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH : This matter pertains to the largest state. The farmer of that state is troubled. There was no dual pricing policy for sugarcane earlier. The farmers are not receiving the payments. Take the case of the entire nation instead. The Chief Minister of Kashmir, Shri Farooq Abdullah has a different viewpoint. The Defence Minister makes a proper statement. Conflicting viewpoints are expressed. I fail to understand all this. When a resolution was passed in this House unanimously that even the last inch of land forcibly occupied by Pakistan would be reoccupied, why are these guidelines not kept in mind before issuing any statement ? Why does not the Union Government exercise any control in this regard? I am raising the U.P. matter only because eight Prime Ministers of our country have emerged from that very state however, today Government is not allowed to be formed in Uttar Pradesh. This is the position and we are aggrieved when we read about the incidents of killings and kidnappings day after day. If this is not true, why did the Home Minister say such a thing? He said it because he was telling the truth. The people of Uttar Pradesh are very troubled and it is very essential to state their predicament. The question arises as to why the Convention laid down by the President himself is not being followed?

I do not want to take much time. The first priority of any Government is to ensure peace, set right the law and order position and ensure the safety of the citizens. In Uttar Pradesh, no farmer dares to go to his fields in the evening. Though the farmers are very brave but still they hesitate when they have to go to the fields at night to look after the crops. Agriculture is a job of those people who love nature. Despite this we go to fields at day time and release water for irrigation but we are not sure as to whether our fields are irrigated properly or not. In view of this worsening condition, why should we support the motion of thanks. We will oppose it. This is the condition of the largest state of the country. In the end, I would like to conclude by reciting this couplet :

"Maali se adavat hai, shodaye chaman hoon mein,

Sarkar ka dushman hoon, wafadare vatan hoon mein."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak and I strongly oppose this Motion of Thanks.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of thanks on the President's Address. In the Presidential Address, a mention has been made regarding upliftment of SCs/STs/ backward classes and other classes as well as about the right to equality but nothing has been stated about the reasons for not filling the posts reserved for SCs/STs and other backward classes. No draft has been prepared for taking legal action against the persons found guilty for not filling the reserved posts. In the same way, measures for checking corruptions, price rise, profiteering and black marketing have also not been mentioned. It only reveals the steps to be taken by the Government for the welfare of the country. There is no action plan for providing unemployment allowances to the educated unemployed or providing employment to them. A mention has been made regarding electoral reforms but nothing has been stated as to when this bill would be brought, how election expenditure could be reduced or how laws regarding prohibition could be reformed. I would like to cite an example of Panchayati raj system in Madhya Pradesh. Panchayats have been given rights and power only on papers there. They are supposed to sanction the projects worth one lakh to ten lakh rupees, but financial powers have not actually been given to them. They have not been given powers regarding recruitment of teachers or distribution of land by issuing lease hold. This system has become a mere eye-wash. 100 gms rice and a little pulse is being given under the mid day meal scheme to school children. Students are being neglected as neither the teachers teach in schools, nor do the children study there. Children are found roaming around the schools. The education policy formulated by the Government reveals that the standard of education has been going down. I feel that fruits, milk and food items should be given under this scheme for their mental development and for inculcating good ideas and feelings in children. An Employment Assurance Scheme has also been launched which aims at providing 100 days work for every family in year. But, it is not being implemented. The Central Government has not released any funds under this head but even if it has been released it is not being utilized. Under this scheme every family in a village or

town is supposed to be given work for 100 days. The labourers register themselves under this scheme and after registeration, they should be given employment compulsorily. However, it is not being done at present. There is a provision for providing rice under Employment Assurance Scheme. As regards implementation of PDS, it is negligible. Kerosene, wheat, sugar etc. are not available there. During rainy season this area is totally cut off. No measures have been proposed to solve this problem. The issue regarding welfare of farmers has not been touched upon. Last time, the hon. Prime Minister has made a promise to provide free tubewells but nothing has been done. For this purpose, an agricultural and Industrial policy should be formulated. Nothing has been said about crop Insurance Scheme also.

Just a mention has been made about giving remunerative prices for agricultural produce. It has been proposed to set up new science schools and to provide modern equipments to farmers but, at present, the condition of farmers is really pitiable. In view of it, effective steps should be taken for providing remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. An Industrial policy as well as a crop Insurance scheme should be introduced for economic uplifitment of poor farmers. I am ashamed to state that the Government give a meagre amount of Rs. 125 or Rs. 50 for the poor, the helpless, the handicapped, destitutes and widows, so that they could lead a normal life. What can one person do with such a meagre amount. They should be given at least Rs. 500 or Rs. 1000 montly so that their economic condition could be improved. They are not getting rice and money at the proper time. The villages have no industries. All old industries have become extincted. Industries of foreign countries are being invited which will ruin indigenous industries. The people will get attracted towards imported articles and nobody will purchase indigenous items. In the Presidential address nothing has been mentioned regarding the measures to deal with this situation and promoting indigenous industries and creating employment opportunities.

Chhatisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh is proposed to be accorded the status of a fulfledged state but it has not been mentioned at all in the Address. Nothing has been said regarding the implementation of that recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission. The amount of revenue would have increased if these schemes were implemented. As you know, small states are the source of income. Setting up of new factories have improved the economic condition of big cities but the condition of villages have not changed at all. Even today villages lack roads, electricity, bridges and culverts. This problem has not been mentioned in the President's Address. Our country and its big cities cannot make progress untill and unless the villages are developed properly. We may set up big industries in Delhi and earn recognition at International level and even hold Asian games, but for proper and balanced development of the country, the development of villages is essential. Due attention should be paid towards the development of barren and wasteland. There is no mention of any scheme for levelling the land in hilly regions. Our villages cannot make progress without such schemes.

Tubewells and other means of irrigation are needed for villagers. People have to travel a distance of 2 or 3 km for getting drinking water. We have been unable to provide drinking water for our people even 50 years after Independence. I would like to cite an example of power position in Madhya Pradesh. The standing crops of farmers are drying up as these could not be irrigated due to power cuts resorted to by the M.P Government. You can very well imagine their plight. Can we not construct stock-dams for power generation so that small industries could be set up there. Means of irrigations can be provided through lift irrigation schemes. Use of solar energy can be promoted for facilitating farmers. But no such scheme has been mentioned in the President's Address. Several Irrigation Project are lying closed there but no mention has been made regarding completion of these incomplete irrigation projects. We claim that this country is moving towards 21st century but where we are actually heading for. Nothing has been mentioned and not a single scheme has been proposed to be launched for the welfare of the toiling majority. Therefore, I oppose this Motion of Thanks and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, we have exhausted the list of speakers. It is a good thing.

The hon. Prime Minister will give reply tomorrow at 12 o' clock immediately after the Question Hour.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 o' clock.

19.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 4, 1997/Phalguna 13, 1918 (Saka).